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YOUNG FOLKS' STORIES

ADVENTURES BY LAND AND SEA





Frontispiece. HUNTING THE BEAR. *Page 137.*

YOUNG FOLKS' STORIES

Series III

ADVENTURES BY LAND AND SEA

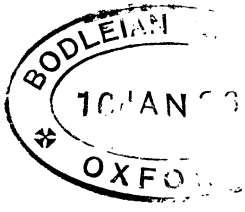
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CONTENTS.

PAGE

LOSS OF THE WAGER 5

Illustrations :—

Leaving the Ship 15
Sleeping Quarters 29
The Indians 37

ADVENTURES OF BYRON 41

Illustration :—

A Peep into a Wigwam 57

A WINTER IN CHARLTON ISLAND. Part I. . . 74

Illustrations :—

At Prayer 79
On the Side of the Forest 95

A WINTER IN CHARLTON ISLAND. Part II. . . 100

Illustration :—

The Forest on Fire 117

ADVENTURES IN SWEDEN 125

Illustrations :—

Swedish Sledge 129
Hunting the Bear (*Frontispiece*) . . 137

ADVENTURES OF CAPTAIN BLIGH. Part I. . . 143

Illustrations :—

Otaheite 145
A Malay Family 163

ADVENTURES OF CAPTAIN BLIGH. Part II. . . 167

Illustration :—

Among the Islands 175

STORY I.

LOSS OF THE "WAGER."

"WILL you be so kind, dear mamma, as to tell us a story to-night, of something that happened in a part of the world where none of *our* travellers have been?"

"With all my heart, Lucy. I quite approve of changing the scene of action. I think we have not yet sailed round Cape Horn."

"Round Cape Horn!" exclaimed Harry. "Oh, no, mamma! We have been several times to the cold countries in the north, but never to those in the southern part of the world. Pray tell me who the traveller is!"

"The person who will interest you more than any other that I shall mention, is an active, spirited lad of seventeen."

"Oh, I shall like that! I wonder what he will do at Cape Horn!"

"I must first tell you, that about the same time

that Behring set out on his second voyage, a squadron sailed from England, under the command of George Anson. Do you remember what the officer is called who commands several ships?"

"To be sure I do: he is a commodore. So then, Commodore Anson sailed round Cape Horn: was he only seventeen?"

"You travel a great deal too fast, Harry. The commodore was a much more experienced person. The youthful hero, with whom you are so impatient to be acquainted, was named John Byron. He was a midshipman on board the Wager, a ship of the squadron commanded by Commodore Anson; but you must suspend your curiosity about him for the present.

"On the 18th of September, 1740, the squadron left St. Helen's. In the English Channel they were joined by other ships of war, and trading vessels, with which they sailed in company till the 29th, when they separated; some ships going to America, others to Turkey, and those under the command of Anson, proceeding to the island of Madeira, where they arrived, on Monday, October the 25th."

"Why did Commodore Anson undertake this voyage, mamma? Was it to make discoveries?"

"No: he went, by order of the English government, to attack some of the Spanish settlements on the western coast of South America. It is not, however, the adventures of Commodore Anson that I am going to relate to you; but the disasters that befel the Wager, and those unhappy men who had the misfortune to be on board.

"In the first part of the voyage, Captain Kidd, who commanded this vessel, died. Though no particular accident had happened to the ship while she was under his command, the captain in his last moments, predicted the evils that would befall her. Neither did it require any extraordinary sagacity to foretel her miserable fate; for she was an old worn-out ship, heavily laden, and manned by discontented sailors, who had been forced, on returning home from long voyages, to engage in this enterprise. The dissatisfaction of the sailors was increased by the murmurs of the soldiers on board, who were a detachment of poor helpless invalids, ill calculated to endure the hardships of the service they were going to be employed in, and indignant at being taken from the retirement of Chelsea Hospital, to end their days in a foreign land. Nothing but misfortune and disgrace could be expected to result from an enterprise so badly planned.

On the death of Captain Kidd, a lieutenant of the name of Cheap succeeded to the command; the Wager still, without any accident, keeping company with the squadron.

"On the 6th of March, 1741, the fleet came in sight of the island of Terra del Fuego, which presented a dismal prospect of stupendous black rocks, crowned with perpetual snow. Steering towards the Straits of Le Maire, the craggy peaks and rifted mountains of Staten Island appeared in view. This whole island seemed to consist of inaccessible rocks, whose abrupt and ragged pinnacles rose through the clouds by which they were surrounded.

"But notwithstanding the terrific aspect of these rocky straits, the sailors were observed to contemplate the scene with unusual pleasure. The sky was clear, the breeze brisk and favourable, and the stately vessels sailed swiftly along: while cheerful hopes began to rise in every bosom; for the Straits of Le Maire were then regarded as the passage from the Atlantic to the Pacific ocean; and the sailors flattered themselves with the prospect of sharing the defenceless treasures of Chili and Peru. But these hopes were transient as the brightness of the weather; and this was the last

cheerful day which the greater part of these unfortunate men ever enjoyed."

"I have been expecting, every minute, to hear of some misfortune happening to the Wager; but I am afraid you have something terrible to say about the whole fleet."

"The Wager, though she had hitherto kept company with the squadron, was at this time the last ship in the fleet: she had, however, nearly cleared the straits, when the sky was suddenly overcast with every appearance of an impending storm. The wind and tide, but just before so favourable, now suddenly turned against them; and the Wager, with the store-ship, were soon in imminent danger of being driven on the frightful cliffs of Staten Island. The sea rose in waves higher than the oldest sailors in the fleet could ever remember to have witnessed: and the ships rolled so much in consequence, that the men were tossed about on the deck, with a violence that killed several, and others received dangerous contusions.

"The Wager, however, struggled through this storm, and regained her station in the squadron; but in another violent gale, which soon succeeded, she was so shattered and disabled, that she could

no longer kept company with the rest of the fleet; and, in addition to this misfortune, she was driving towards a lee-shore."*

Harry inquired what is meant by a *lee-shore*.

"When the wind blows *towards* the shore, that is called a *lee-shore*. You perceive that the force of the wind must add to the danger of the vessel.

"Some of the officers, perceiving their hazardous situation, endeavoured to persuade the captain to alter his course; but he obstinately determined to persevere. The land was not yet in sight; and he disregarded the usual signs of birds and weeds, which indicated that the vessel was approaching the shore. Owing to this unfortunate obstinacy, the ship was almost close upon the land before orders were given to change her course. It was then too late. So many of the crew were disabled by sickness, that there were only twelve men on board fit for duty; and the wind blowing a perfect hurricane, and right in upon the shore, rendered all their endeavours fruitless. Night came on, adding the uncertainty of darkness to the horrors of the storm. In the morning, about four o'clock, the ship struck on the rocks, and the waves dashed violently over her. Every person that was

* "Lives of British Admirals," see Anson and Byron.

able to stir, instantly came upon deck; but several poor creatures, who were in the last stage of the scurvy, and who could not get out of their hammocks, were immediately drowned.

"In this dreadful situation the ship lay for some time, every person on board expecting each minute would prove his last; for nothing but breakers appeared around the vessel. Presently, however, a mountainous wave lifted the ship from the rocks; but she soon struck upon them again, and broke her tiller."

"What is the tiller?"

"It is the lever, or handle, by which the rudder turned.

"In this awful moment the effect of fear appeared in various ways, as it operated on men of different characters. Some were quite stupified by terror, and lay about like logs, tossed to and fro by the rolling of the vessel, without making any effort to help themselves. Others appeared quite frantic, talking and acting like madmen. So terrible was the scene, that one of the bravest men in the ship could not help expressing his dismay, and saying it was too shocking a sight to bear: he would have thrown himself over the rails of the quarter-deck into the sea, if he had

not been prevented. Yet there were others who preserved a calmness and presence of mind truly heroic. The man at the helm, though both rudder and tiller were gone, kept his station, and answered the inquiries of one of the officers with as much respect and coolness, as if the ship had been in perfect safety. Mr. Jones, the mate, was not only undaunted himself, but tried to inspire the same resolution in the men, saying: 'My friends, let us not be discouraged: did you never see a ship among breakers before? Let us try to push her through them. Come, lend a hand: here is a sheet, and here is a brace—lay hold. I do not doubt but we may stick her yet near enough to the land to save our lives.' This speech had so good an effect, that many who before seemed half dead, were now active, and went to work in earnest, steering the ship, by the sheets and braces, towards the shore. She soon stuck fast between two rocks, and became a complete wreck.

"The day now began to dawn; and the weather clearing for a few moments, afforded them a glimpse of the land, and some hopes of saving their lives."

"While the boats were getting ready, young

Byron, who seems to have preserved great presence of mind through the whole of this dreadful scene, went to the captain, and asked him whether he would not go on shore. Captain Cheap was at this time confined to his bed, in consequence of a hurt which he had received the day before; but he declared that he would be the last person to leave the ship, and ordered Byron to assist in getting the men into the boats as soon as possible. Whatever were the other faults of the captain, he seems to have been courageous, and gave his orders with as much coolness as ever he had done in the former part of the voyage."

"I am glad to hear that," said Harry: "I did not think that Captain Cheap had been good for anything."

"There is a mixture of good and evil in all characters; and when we are inclined to blame the faults of other people, we should reflect, that in some particulars, they may perhaps be better than ourselves."

"I shall like the story better, now I find we have a courageous captain."

"I have observed before, my dear Harry, that you set too high a value upon courage. Unless

it is accompanied by prudence and humanity, courage is worth very little.

"The sailors who had just been abandoning themselves to despair, as soon as they saw a prospect of saving their lives, went to the contrary extreme, and behaved like madmen in the excess of their joy. They knocked in the heads of the casks of wine and brandy, and drank till they were quite intoxicated. In this wretched state several of them were drowned, when, if they had been sober and reasonable, they might have escaped; and their dead bodies lay floating about on the decks for several days afterwards.

"The boatswain and some of the people, not deterred by this shocking example, refused to leave the ship so long as any liquor remained. On this Captain Cheap suffered himself to be put into the boat, and carried on shore. You might naturally suppose, that men on the point of perishing by shipwreck would be very happy to find themselves once more on dry land; but the condition of these poor people was but little improved by the change. Cast on a desolate and barren shore, wet, cold, and hungry, the necessary evils of their situation were terrible; but these evils were dreadfully increased by their own misconduct."



LEAVING THE SHIP.

"That was very sad indeed, and foolish too. How came they to behave so ill?"

"You may remember, that after the wreck of the Alceste, Captain Maxwell called all his people about him, and told them, that though they were cast upon a desert island, they were all as liable to answer for their conduct as when on board the ship. The men were sensible of this, and were orderly and obedient. But when the same misfortune happened to the Wager, that law did not exist; and the sailors, not feeling themselves any longer under the control of their officers, were guilty of the wildest excesses. Drunkenness, quarrelling, theft, and even murder, were the melancholy consequences. The shameful conduct of these unhappy men is said to have given occasion to the new law on the subject:* at any rate, it was a sufficient proof that such a law was necessary."

"Where did this shipwreck happen, mamma?"

"It was on the coast of Wager Island. You may find it on the western shore of South America, about 48 degrees south latitude; from this island they could plainly see the ridge of the Andes; but they did not yet know whether they were on an island or on the continent.

* See the Preface to Byron's Narrative.

"About one hundred and forty of the crew had gained the shore; and finding a deserted Indian hut, at a little distance in the woods, as many as could crowd into it sheltered themselves there for the night. Some still remained on board the wreck, detained by the love of drinking and the hope of plunder.

"They were visited the next day by an officer in the yawl, who endeavoured to persuade them to join their companions; but finding them in the greatest disorder, and disposed to mutiny, he was obliged to return without them. The following night there was another tremendous storm, which changed the opinion of these riotous men, who, fearing that the vessel would be dashed to pieces, now became as outrageous for assistance from the shore, as they had before been obstinate in refusing it; but they did not reflect on the impossibility of the boats coming to their help through such a raging sea; and, in their madness, they fired one of the quarter-deck guns at the hut. The ball did but just pass over the roof; and its whistling sound was distinctly heard by the captain and others within."

"What shocking wretches! I am sure," said Lucy, "I should have dreaded their coming on shore."

"When they did come, they made a strange appearance; for they had rifled the chests of the officers, and put on their fine laced clothes, over their own dirty trowsers and checked shirts. Captain Cheap, provoked to see the boatswain (who ought to have exerted his authority to keep the rest in order) a ringleader in this riot, paid no respect to his stolen finery, but, with a well-aimed blow of his cane, felled him to the ground. After this, the mutineers were all deprived of their spoils, and also of some fire-arms of which they had taken possession."

"They were rightly served," said Harry, "and I hope they submitted to the captain."

"Some of them yielded a sullen, unwilling obedience; but the discord that prevailed among them did not afford a prospect of coming to any determination respecting their future conduct. As there was an immediate necessity for making some arrangements respecting the stores and provisions which might be obtained from the wreck, Captain Cheap ordered a store-tent to be erected near his hut, from which nothing was to be issued but in the proportion agreed upon by the officers. The want of good principles in the men, subjected the younger officers to very hard duty on this occasion;

for, after hunting all day in quest of food, they were obliged to take turn in watching the store-tent at night, to prevent it from being robbed by their own people."

"What dishonest people they were!"

"They were indeed; but, in this case, I think part of the blame falls on the captain, who did not take proper means to prevent the crime. The ship was wrecked on the 14th of May; but provisions were not regularly served from the store-tent till a fortnight afterwards. During this interval, many poor fellows died of hunger; and, seeing the captain so regardless of their sufferings, we cannot wonder that others should try to help themselves.

"They continued busy in saving what they could from the wreck; but the unfeeling disposition of the captain appears to have produced increasing ill-humour and discontent in the people. Some separated from the rest, and made habitations for themselves: others resolved to leave the captain entirely, and set out on a wild journey, without forming any plan for the future.

"Poor Byron, who appears to have been an amiable, well-disposed lad, was tired of all this ill-humour and caballing: he did not wish to join any of these unreasonable people; and he built a

little hut, just big enough for himself and a poor Indian dog which he had found in the woods. This creature grew very fond of his new master, and guarded his hut faithfully. He supplied himself with food by going down to the shore at low-water, and getting limpets."

"I should have been like Byron, mamma. I would much rather live with a good, faithful dog, than with such bad men."

"Byron was not permitted long to enjoy the society of his dumb companion. One day a party of these disorderly men came to the little habitation where he and his dog were resting themselves, and declared that they must have the dog to eat, or else they must starve. The affectionate and faithful services of this poor animal made his master very unwilling to part with him, and he tried to persuade them to give up their design. But they would not listen to his remonstrances: they took the dog away by force, and killed him."

"Oh, how very sorry Byron must have been!"

"He was indeed, Lucy; but his own hunger was so pressing, that when he saw the poor dog was really dead, and that the sailors had prepared it for eating, he sat down with them, and shared their repast."

"I do not like Byron now. If I was ever so hungry, I should not like to eat poor Fido."

"Why should it be worse to eat Fido, than the ducks and chickens which you are so fond of feeding?"

"Oh, mother! Fido has ten times more sense than a duck; and he knows me, and loves me: I could not bear to eat *him!*"

"You do not know what it is to be so hungry as poor Byron was. Three weeks after this, he was almost starving; and recollecting the spot where the sailors had killed the dog, he went there, and found the paws and skin, which had been thrown aside: on these, though in a putrid state, this poor lad was happy to make a dinner."

"I could never have imagined such hunger as that!"

"You have no idea what exertions they were obliged to make, to procure food. When they first arrived, there were a good many shell-fish on the shores of the bay; but there were so many to eat them, that the supply soon failed. One man, whose name was Phipps, was very hungry, as well as the rest: he was also possessed of courage and ingenuity. He took some of the staves out of a water-cask, and then fastened a log of wood on

each side of the cask, to keep it steady; and in this curious kind of boat, he set out in search of food. By this means he frequently supplied himself with wild-fowl; and while all the rest were starving, he secured a good dinner. Sometimes he would venture a long way from shore; and at last, when he was far out at sea, his cask overset. He was not a good swimmer; but being near a rock, he managed to reach it, though with great difficulty. There he remained for two days, with very little hope of relief, for he was at too great a distance to be seen from the shore; but fortunately, some of his companions happened to go that way in a boat: they saw him making signals, went to the lonely rock, and brought him safely back to the island."

"I should think he had had enough of going to sea in a boat of his own invention."

"By no means: he soon tried his skill in boat-making again. He procured an ox-hide, which had been used by the gunner for sifting powder, and stretching it over some hoops, he formed a sort of canoe, in which he made several successful voyages."

"Oh, that was far cleverer than the clumsy cask! It was almost like the canoe of an Esquimaux.

"I wonder," said Lucy, "they staid starving so long in that miserable island. I should have been for going somewhere else."

"About ten of the people resolved that they would do so; and indeed their companions would have had no reason to be sorry for it, for most of them were desperate wretches. Their dislike of the captain not being restrained by any feelings of humanity, they agreed, before their departure, to perform an act of terrible revenge. For this purpose they placed half a barrel of gunpowder close to the hut, laid a train to it, and were just going to set it on fire and blow up their commander, when one of their own party, less hardened than the rest, was struck with horror at the wickedness of the design, and persuaded his companions to relinquish their cruel purpose.

"After this they rambled about for some time in the woods; but finding they could not escape from the island they settled about three miles from the captain's party. They soon after contrived to make themselves two boats, in which they sailed away, and were never heard of more."

"And a happy thing that they did! I am sure I should have been very glad to get rid of them. Did the captain behave better, after they were gone?"

"Captain Cheap was unfit to govern others, for he had not learned how to govern himself. His conduct was frequently marked by passion and cruelty. One instance of this I will tell you. A midshipman, whose name was Cozens, had, like many others, been intoxicated and quarrelsome: for this he was properly punished by a short confinement. Soon afterwards Cozens had another quarrel with one of his companions; and the captain, hearing the disturbance, ran out of his hut with a cocked pistol in his hand, and, without asking any questions, immediately shot poor Cozens through the head."

"Oh, how very wicked, to kill him without asking who was in the wrong!"

"Byron thought that the captain shot Cozens under a mistaken apprehension that he was going to mutiny; but even if he had, that was no excuse for such rash and violent conduct. What follows is, if possible, still more shocking. Cozens was not immediately killed; and as he lay bleeding on the ground, he appeared quite sensible, and took Byron and others by the hand, shaking his head, as if he meant to take leave of them. This very much affected everybody except the inhuman captain. The eyes of all were fixed, with an expres-

sion of deep concern, on the dying man, who was greatly beloved. At last his messmates begged as a favour, that he might be removed to their tent; but even this poor alleviation was refused, and the unhappy victim was suffered to languish for some days on the ground, with no other shelter from the weather, than a piece of canvass thrown over some bushes. In that situation poor Cozens expired."

"Oh, that wicked, cruel captain! When he had shot him in a mistake and a passion, I thought he would have been so sorry, and have tried everything to save him. Well, I know one thing; whatever Captain Cheap may suffer, I shall be glad; and I will not feel the least bit of pity for him."

"Softly, Harry. Do you wish to resemble Captain Cheap?"

"Who? *I!* I wish to resemble him! Mother, why do you ask such a question?"

"If you could see Captain Cheap in a state of great suffering, without feeling 'the least bit of pity,' you would be revengeful and unforgiving, like him.

"Some time after this unhappy affair, Byron was sent in the barge, with three of the officers

and ten men, to examine the coast to the southward. In this expedition they suffered from the bad weather usually experienced in that stormy climate; and on the third day they were obliged to take shelter in the first creek which presented itself. When they had secured the barge, they went ashore, and pitched a tent, to shelter themselves from the rain. The tent was not large enough to hold them all; and Byron having observed a deserted Indian *wigwam*, or hut, at about two miles' distance from the tent, proposed going there with four of the people. They went accordingly; and having lighted a fire they lay down, hoping to forget their hunger in sleep. They had not long composed themselves, before one of the company was disturbed by some animal blowing at his face; and, on opening his eyes, he was astonished to see, by the glimmering of the fire, a large beast standing over him."

"I should have been almost frightened out of my senses at that," said Harry.

"If the sailor had been frightened out of his senses, perhaps the beast might have devoured him; but he acted with as much presence of mind as the lady showed who drove away the tiger."

"How could that be? I dare say the sailor had no umbrella."

"He had what answered the same purpose: he snatched a brand from the fire, and thrust it at the nose of the animal, who made a hasty retreat. When the creature was gone, the sailor wakened his companions. They saw his horror-struck countenance, and for a moment they shared his apprehensions: but they were so very tired and sleepy, that they soon composed themselves to rest again, and slept the remainder of the night without disturbance. Perhaps they might have considered the whole affair as a frightful dream, if the next morning they had not traced the footsteps of the beast in the sand: the impression was deep and plain, of a large round foot, well furnished with claws."

"I should have felt like Robinson Crusoe, when he saw the print of a man's foot. Well, what happened next?"

"Byron and his companions returned to Wager Island. They could not proceed with their voyage of discovery, on account of the tempestuous weather.

"They found the old cabals and mutinous proceedings still going on; and soon after their return, eighteen of the ship's company, who had got possession of the long-boat, determined to return



SLEEPING QUARTERS.

to the southward, and endeavour to find their way home by the Straits of Magellan. These mutineers seized on the captain, on pretence of taking him to England, to be there tried for the murder of Cozens; but afterwards finding themselves straitened for room and provisions, they set him at liberty. At length, eighty-one left the island in the long-boat, cutter, and barge. Byron embarked with them; but when he found that Captain Cheap was left on Wager Island, he took the first opportunity of returning to his commanding officer, to whom he seems to have resolved to be faithful, let what would happen."

"I am sure, so would not I. A cruel, passionate fellow: I would not have been faithful to him!"

"That is not a good feeling, Harry. We should always try to do *our* duty, let other people deserve kind treatment or not. Byron would have had but little merit in behaving well to such a captain as Maxwell or Golownin; but in acting as he did to a selfish tyrant like Cheap, he set an excellent example to all young officers.

"The company in Wager Island, after the return of Byron and some others in the barge, consisted of twenty persons. They were now, by the departure of the mutineers, left at liberty to adopt

the plan of Captain Cheap, which was to go to the Island of Chiloe, there seize a Spanish vessel, and then sail away, in search of Commodore Anson and the rest of the squadron."

Lucy asked how they could know where to look for them.

"Anson had appointed several places of meeting, in case the squadron should be separated by storms; among others, the beautiful island of Juan Fernandez. But so much time had been lost, that the chance of finding Anson was much diminished. Seven months had now elapsed since the shipwreck; and on the 15th of December, when the days were nearly at the longest, as it was almost Midsummer, the people told Captain Cheap they wished to embrace that favourable season to set out on their voyage."

"Stop, if you please, mamma. How could it be Midsummer in December?"

"Because, when the sun is in the tropic of Capricorn, it is Midsummer in the southern hemisphere."

"And then it is our winter, and the North Pole is dark. *I* can show you that on the globe to-morrow, Harry, for mamma explained it to me; but let her go on now, for I want to hear about this voyage."

"Wager Island is about the same distance from Chiloe, that Pulo-Leat is from Batavia; but *seven months* were wasted before Captain Cheap attempted this only rational means of preservation. Lord Amherst and Captain Maxwell arranged their plan, and began to put it in practice, in nearly the same number of *hours*. Pulo-Leat presented a scene of order and harmony, of cheerful obedience and well-regulated authority: Wager Island, an affecting example of the terrible consequence of indulging selfish and violent passions Many lost their lives from drunkenness; many perished with hunger; others sailed away on some wild scheme of their own, and were never heard of more; and several were murdered by their companions, besides poor Cozens, whose miserable end I have related

"Thus you see, we cannot judge of the degree of any misfortune, merely by the circumstance which happens. It is on the manner in which people conduct themselves, when in difficulty, that the event will probably depend."

"I see that people who are good and reasonable, suffer less even when they are shipwrecked. Mother, I intend to cure myself of going into a passion, for fear it should bring misfortunes."

" You are quite in the right, Harry. Passion is the cause of many misfortunes, though we may *not* happen to be shipwrecked.

" For more than a month, Captain Cheap and his few remaining men laboured hard to get round a cape to the northward of their former station, consisting of three high head-lands. From Byron's description, I should think it must be that which is called in the map, Peninsula of Three Mountains. After suffering incredible fatigue, losing one of the boats, and abandoning four of the party, who were left on a small island, to shift for themselves, they gave up the project, and returned to Wager Island in despair, about two months after they set out on this unfortunate expedition.

" While they were out on this disastrous voyage, they went up a creek, in hopes of finding either seals, or shell-fish. For this purpose they disembarked, and rambled along the shore in detached parties.

" Mr. Elliot, the surgeon, happened to be by himself, when he discovered a pretty large hole, which appeared to lead to some den within the rocks. Elliot's curiosity was strongly excited, for this opening was not so rude as to appear

entirely the work of nature; but he hesitated whether he should venture into this recess, not knowing what kind of reception he might meet with. At last, curiosity prevailed, and he determined to make the attempt. He entered, creeping on his hands and knees, on account of the lowness of the passage, and proceeded in that posture for a considerable distance. He then arrived at a spacious chamber: but whether a natural cave, or hollowed by art, he could not determine. This apartment was lighted by an opening at the top; and in the centre of it there were two platforms, raised one above the other: the upper one was about five feet from the ground. It was a sort of frame-work of sticks, supported by props. On this, and the one beneath it, many human bodies were extended: they appeared to have been there for a great while, but were in a state of complete preservation,"

Lucy asked whether these were American mummies.

"They were wrapped in bandages, like the Egyptian mummies, but were destitute of any covering. The flesh of these bodies had become perfectly dry and hard; but whether this was produced by art, or was the natural effect of the

dryness of the cave, Elliot could not guess. To confess the truth, the surgeon was very hungry; and he was too earnest in his pursuit of something to eat, to spend his time in any particular examination, either of the cave or the dead bodies. Therefore he crawled back through the passage by which he had entered, and told the first person he met what he had seen. Several others had the curiosity to go in likewise; and Byron conjectured that this might be a burying-place of the Indian chiefs, though there were no traces of any settlement in the neighbourhood."

"Did the English see no inhabitants, during all the time they were on the coast?"

"Soon after the shipwreck, some Indians with their families came into the bay, where the English had taken refuge. The people appeared to be of friendly dispositions; but they had reason to be dissatisfied with the selfish, ungovernable spirit of our countrymen, and suddenly departed, taking away all that belonged to them.

"Had the English behaved well, it is very probable that these friendly Indians would have guided and assisted their escape; but the infatuated captain and riotous crew, do not appear to have thought of so obvious an expedient.



THE INDIANS.

"After their return to the bay where they had first landed, they suffered the most terrible famine. They could no longer find either seals or shell-fish, and were reduced almost to the last extremity. At this time Lieutenant Hamilton found some pieces of beef, which had been washed on shore from the wreck; and though the meat was in a state which would have been rejected by a nicer appetite, it was a treasure to this poor starving man. With a generosity of which Wager Island affords few examples, he scorned the idea of concealing his discovery, and shared his prize with his distressed companions.

"About a fortnight after Cheap and his people returned to the island, a party of Indians came there in two canoes. Among them was an Indian chief of the tribe of Chonos, who lived in the neighbourhood of Chiloe. This man had some knowledge of Spanish. Mr. Elliot could also speak it a little, and he contrived to make the Indian understand that the English wished to reach some of the Spanish settlements; and that if he would undertake to conduct them in their barge, he should have both that, and whatever it contained, as soon as they arrived at the destined port. To these conditions the chief, after much persuasion, consented.

"The number of the English was now reduced to thirteen, who embarked in the barge with this Indian chief and his servant, whose name was Emanuel. The two Indian canoes accompanied them for some days, and then left them to proceed on their voyage alone."

"Come," said Lucy, "I hope the worst is over. Now they have obtained a guide, I think they will do."

"They had still many hardships to endure: some of them, the necessary consequence of their situation; and some arising from the unhappy state of their own minds, and the want of kindness and consideration for each other. But it grows late, and Harry's eyes look heavy. We will reserve the conclusion of their adventures till to-morrow evening."



STORY II.

ADVENTURES OF BYRON.

"Now, dear mamma, how did Byron and his companions get on with their Indian guide?"

"On the third day of their voyage they came to the bottom of a great bay, where the Indian had left his wife and two children in a hut. Here they staid for two or three days, constantly employed in seeking for shell-fish. When they were ready to proceed on their voyage, they took the guide's wife and children into the boat, and attempted to ascend a river. They laboured all day against the stream, but made hardly any progress: at last one of the sailors expiring from fatigue, Byron, who had hitherto steered the boat, was obliged to row. While he was thus employed, another of the men, who was rowing beside him, dropped from his seat, saying that his strength was quite exhausted for want of food, and that he must shortly die. As he lay in this affecting state in the bottom of the boat, he every now and

then expressed the most earnest wish for a little food, saying, that too or three mouthfuls might be the means of saving his life. Could you believe that any man had a heart so hard as to resist such an entreaty?"

Harry said he could believe anything that is cruel of Captain Cheap.

"It is true that we have heard some sad stories of him, but in this case I cannot help wondering at the hardness of his heart; for it does not appear that poor Bosman had done anything to offend him, and yet, when he lay at his feet, expiring for want of food, and earnestly begging a morsel to save his life, this inhuman man, who had at the time a large piece of boiled seal's flesh beside him, would not give the smallest portion of it to the dying sailor."

"How very shocking!" said Lucy. "I hope there are not many such men in the world."

"Young Byron had very different feelings: he was shocked at the cruelty of the captain; and though he had only five or six dried shell-fish in his pocket, and did not know how long it might be before he could procure a fresh supply, he could not resist the entreaties of poor Bosman, but from time to time he put one of his shell-fish into

his mouth. The little store was presently exhausted, and soon afterwards the unhappy sufferer was released from his misery by death. They continued rowing till the evening, when they landed, and made a grave in the sand for the two sailors. Afterwards Captain Cheap brought out his great piece of seal's flesh for supper, but suffered no one to share it with him, except the surgeon, who happened to be in favour. The sailors observed this with vehement indignation, and declareed that he deserved to be deserted by all his people on account of his savage conduct."

"Ah," said Lucy, "how differently Captain Bligh behaved, who shared his morsel of bread and water with his people, and took no more of anything himself, than he gave to everybody in the boat!"

"The Indian chief now departed in a canoe with his family, in hopes of obtaining some seals. He left his servant Emanuel to show the English where they would be likely to meet with shellfish. They continued their search for some time, with very little success, and began to think of returning to the barge. At this moment, six of the men and Emanuel were walking a little way before the officers: they reached the boat first,

jumped into it, pushed out to sea, and left them to return no more. And now, all that Byron and his companions had hitherto endured, seemed light in comparison of what they expected to suffer from this treachery of the sailors, who, with the boat, had taken away everything that belonged to them, except a little powder and one gun, which Byron happened to have with him. They watched the departing boat with feelings of hopeless regret, and most of them yielded to despondency. At this time the sea was very rough, and the waves broke furiously on the shore. As he strolled along the beach, without any prospect of relief, or any object of hope, Byron's eyes were continually attracted by the ever-changing appearance of the restless waters. Now and then he fancied he saw something black on the edge of a distant wave, and then he lost it again. He observed it more intently. At last he thought it was a canoe; but reflecting how unusual it was for the Indians to venture in so rough a sea, and at such a distance from land, he concluded that his sight must have been deceived. Presently, a rising wave brought this dark object still nearer; and he was then convinced, beyond all doubt, that it was really a canoe. He wished his companions to share in the

pleasure of this discovery. They were at some distance behind him on the beach, and he ran back, as fast as he could, to tell them what he had seen. Their spirits were so completely sunk by their melancholy situation, that at first they could not believe his assertion; but when they were at last convinced of its truth, they hastened to strip off some of their ragged clothing, to serve as a signal, which they fixed upon a long pole. This had the desired effect. The people in the canoe seeing the signal, made towards the land, at about two miles' distance from our distressed travellers. At that place they were able to approach the shore; for a projecting ledge of the rocks broke the violence of the waves, and sheltered a small cove, into which the strangers guided their canoe. Captain Cheap and Byron walked along the beach to this cove, where they arrived about the same time that the persons, whose approach they had so anxiously desired, had effected their landing."

"Who were these persons in the canoe, mamma?"

"They proved to be the Indian guide and his wife, who had left them a few days before."

"I am glad to hear that, for I thought they were quite abandoned, and would all die miserably, one after another."

"They expected it themselves, when the treacherous sailors went off with the boat: yet this was one of the many instances, which prove that what we consider as a misfortune, is often the happiest thing that could befal us."

"Like Bernard Gilpin breaking his leg!" said Harry. "But what advantage did these people gain by the loss of their boat?"

"You have seen that their barge was very ill calculated for being rowed against the stream of those rapid rivers, the attempt they had already made having proved fatal to two of the men. The barge was too heavy to be carried over the shallows and points of land, as the Indians carry their canoes; and, if they had attempted to double the capes and head-lands on that stormy coast, you may see, by what Captain Cheap and his people suffered in the expedition they undertook before they met with this Indian, that they must have sunk under the fatigue of such an enterprise. So that losing their boat was, in fact, being relieved from an incumbrance; and eventually it proved the means of their preservation."

"I am glad they did escape at last," said Harry; "but I should like this story much better, if Captain Cheap had been a good man."

"It is certainly pleasanter to hear the adventures of good people; but we have the comfort of knowing, that, under the wise government of Providence, even the crimes of bad men contribute to the general good."

"If you could only explain *that*, dear mother, I should not be so much vexed at this captain's behaviour."

"It is not possible that I should know *all* the good which resulted from the misconduct of the captain and his crew; but it appears that, amidst the trials and privations arising from that misconduct, young Byron acquired the patient fortitude which afterwards distinguished his character. And I told you last night, that the excesses of which the crew of the Wager were guilty, occasioned the enactment of that law which secures the authority of the captain in case of shipwreck — thus preventing a multitude of crimes and misfortunes."

"I think I quite understand that. You mean that we may improve, even by what we suffer from the faults of other people; and that the distresses of a few men were the means of safety to a great many."

"But, mamma, was not the Indian very angry,

when he found that the barge was gone? You know, Mr. Elliot had promised him that he should have it for his trouble."

"As the boat was to have become his property, he was, doubtless, vexed at its loss: but his first inquiries were after Emanuel, whom he suspected the English of having murdered. Captain Cheap and Byron could not converse with the guide, on account of their ignorance of Spanish, and therefore they took him to Elliot, who was too ill to walk to the cove with them. To him the Indian repeated his inquiries after Emanuel; and Elliot at length succeeded in removing his suspicions. A few days after, Emanuel, who had escaped from the sailors, returned to his master.

"After this, Byron went with the guide on an expedition in search of some other Indians, who might be willing to assist them in their journey. On his return he found poor Elliot very ill, and Hamilton and Campbell almost starved. Captain Cheap fared better than the others, for the Indian occasionally supplied him with food, a favour which he never bestowed on the rest.

"When they were joined by the Indians, whose company the chief and Byron had been soliciting, they embarked in canoes and put to sea. Camp-

bell and Byron were obliged to row. Hamilton was a soldier, and did not understand this business. Captain Cheap did not attempt it, and the Indians appear to have respected his dignity too much to employ him in any servile offices. Elliot was very near the end of his sufferings, and lay almost insensible at the bottom of the canoe. The weather proving unfavourable, they landed, without having been able to make much progress; and here poor Elliot, quite exhausted by fatigue and hunger, expired. He had been a very strong, active young man, and in the beginning of these misfortunes seemed, from his vigorous state of health, more likely to struggle through difficulties, than many of the others. Indeed, he had endured amazing exertion, and he and Lieutenant Hamilton were the best shots in the company; and while the ammunition lasted they never spared themselves, but went out with their guns, in search of seals or wild fowl, and in great measure provided for the rest. But his labours and sufferings were now terminated: and his surviving companions scraped a hole in the sand, where they deposited his remains as decently as they could."

"Ah, poor Elliot! I am sorry for him. He was one of my favourites, and I was in hopes he would

discover some more caverns. It was a pity they could not do anything to save him, poor fellow, when he had worked so hard to obtain food for them all."

Lucy interrupted her brother, by inquiring what became of the party after the death of Elliot.

"They set out again a few days afterwards, and proceeding westward, they came to the mouth of a river. They rowed up the stream for several leagues, and at night landed on its banks, in a perfect swamp, and without any protection from the rain, which fell heavily. The Indians had provided themselves with seal's-flesh; but our poor countrymen had nothing to eat except the root of some plant, which had a very unpleasant taste.

"The next day they were no better off, but were obliged to labour at the oar, pulling all day against the stream. On the following day they came to a carrying-place."

Harry asked, "What is meant by a *carrying-place*?"

"I have told you with what dreadful fury the waves break upon this rocky shore. Many capes and head-lands run out into that raging sea; and

it being impossible to get round them in an open boat, the Indian canoes are made in such a manner as to admit of being easily taken to pieces. When the Indians have occasion to go over the land, either to avoid one of these stormy capes, or to pass from one river to another, they take their canoes to pieces, and each man or woman carries a plank. The spots where they are obliged to have recourse to this expedient, are very naturally called *carrying-places.*

"Everybody, except Captain Cheap, had something to carry. He was so helpless, that he was obliged to be assisted by others, or he must have been left behind. Byron was one of the last: he waited for some Indians who belonged to the canoe in which he came.

"When they were ready to set forward, he was obliged to carry on his head a piece of wet, heavy canvass, which contained some half-putrid seal's flesh, belonging to Captain Cheap. It was a load sufficient, in such dreadful roads, for a strong man in health; but to a poor half-starved lad, like Byron, it was a grievous burden. However, he was forced to trudge on with it, as well as he was able, through this swampy wood, mostly up to his knees in the mire, and often up to his middle.

Besides the fatigue occasioned by this, he was often treading on the stumps of trees, which could not be avoided, as they were covered with water; and having neither shoes nor stockings, his feet and legs were sadly wounded. Before they had proceeded half a mile, the two Indians, who were more accustomed to this kind of travelling, left him. He continued to make the best progress he could, fearing that if he did not reach the other side of the carrying-place in good time, they would all desert him. A tree happened to lie across the road, and in scrambling over it, his foot slipped, and he fell into a very deep swamp, where he narrowly escaped drowning, owing to the weight of the burden on his head. It was a long time before he could get out, and when he had accomplished it his strength was quite exhausted. He sat down under a tree to recover himself, and there indulged his melancholy thoughts. Alone in the wild solitude of an American forest, wet, cold, and half-famished, his naked feet and ankles covered with wounds, with no hand to help, no eye to pity him, sat this unfortunate son of an English nobleman."

"Poor fellow!" said Lucy. "I did not know he was the son of a nobleman: that made his case

still worse, because it is not likely that he had been used to hardships."

"Happily for Byron, whatever might have been the delicacy of his education, he possessed a strong mind. He soon recollected, that bewailing his misfortunes could not do him any good: and rising from the ground he observed a great tree, so situated that he thought he could find it again. He felt quite unable to carry Captain Cheap's bundle any further, so he deposited it under this tree. He then set out again, in hopes of overtaking his companions: it was, however, some hours before he came up with them. They were sitting down under a tree, and Byron sat down beside them in silence. No one noticed him for some time. At last Captain Cheap inquired what had become of his seal and canvass? Byron told him of the misfortune that had happened to him, which indeed the captain might easily have guessed, from the condition of the poor lad's tattered clothing and wounded feet; but instead of pity for his sufferings, Byron heard nothing but grumbling and reproaches for the loss of the seal. This was a lesson of fortitude: he profited by it, and made no reply to this unreasonable man. After having rested a little while, he got up and walked back

into the wood, at least five miles, to the great tree under which he had left his bundle. He returned again, just in time to deliver it to the captain, before he embarked with the Indians on a great lake, the opposite side of which appeared to wash the feet of the Andes. Byron wished to go with them, but they told him that he must wait for some other Indians who were going to follow them. He did not know where these Indians were to come from: he was left alone on the banks of the lake, and night was approaching. The unfeeling captain did not give him even a morsel of the seal that had caused him so much suffering."

"Mother, whatever you may think of it, I cannot bear this selfish man."

"If you cannot bear selfishness in another person, my dear Harry, be sure you never indulge it in yourself.

"Byron kept his eyes fixed upon the canoes as long as he could distinguish them, and then went back into the wood, and sat down upon the root of a tree. He had eaten nothing all day but the stem of a plant resembling an artichoke. Quite worn out with fatigue, he fell asleep; and, waking before day, he thought he heard the sound of

voices. When it was light, he perceived a wigwam or Indian hut, and immediately went towards it. Stooping down to enter the low opening that served as a door, he received a kick in the face, and heard the voices of the inhabitants quarrelling. On this he thought it prudent to retire, and waited at the foot of a neighbouring tree, till an old woman peeped out and invited him to enter. He obeyed, and was happy to be allowed to sit a few minutes by their fire, for he was quite benumbed with cold. The old woman put a piece of seal's flesh on the fire, and when it was warm through, (which, in the opinion of these people, is cooking sufficient,) she gave a little piece to Byron, who swallowed it whole, in his eager desire to satisfy his craving appetite, for indeed he was almost starved.

"He did not know which way these Indians were going; neither did he care, so as they would but take him with them, and give him something to eat."

"Poor creature! what a dismal situation he was in!"

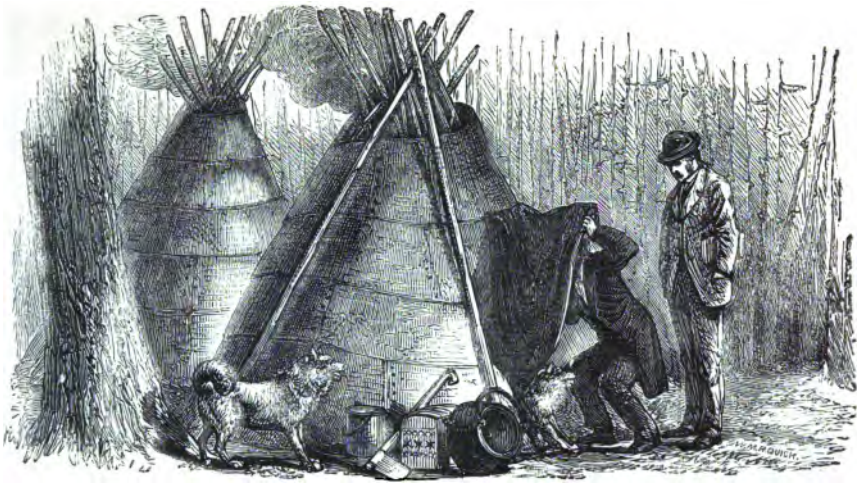
"It soon appeared that the Indians were going to the north; and when they had joined together the planks of their canoe, they put all their bag-

gage into it, making Byron row. They crossed the lake, and then entered a rapid river, where they went ashore. Byron passed a melancholy night, as the Indians would not suffer him to come near the wigwam which they had erected for themselves; neither had they given him the least bit of anything to eat since they embarked. In the morning they set off again, the current carrying them down the river at an amazing rate; and just before night they landed on a stony beach.

"The Indians hauled up their canoe, and went away, leaving Byron quite alone. It rained violently, and was very dark. He thought it was as well to lie down on the beach, though his body must be partly in the water, as to sleep in a swamp under a dropping tree."

"I should have been puzzled which to choose, both places were so uncomfortable."

"Poor Byron had only the choice of evils; but he was so tired, that he soon fell fast asleep on the beach. In three or four hours he woke in such agony with the cramp, that he thought he must have died. However, he retained his usual presence of mind, and tried to change his posture and to rise. After many ineffectual attempts, he got upon his hands and knees; and perceiving a



A PEEP INTO A WIGWAM.

fire at some distance in the wood, he crawled to it with great difficulty, and almost threw himself into it, in hopes of relieving the intolerable pain he was suffering. The intrusion offended the Indians, who immediately got up, and drove him away with kicks and blows. A little while after, he contrived to place himself so as to receive some warmth from the fire, and his cramp left him."

"What cruel creatures these Indians were, to beat and drive poor Byron from the fire, and to starve him too. I do believe he had nothing to eat, but the morsel of seal's flesh that the old woman gave him, for two whole days."

"It is surprising that he did not sink under such continued hunger, cold, and fatigue, but you must observe, Harry, that his *fortitude* never forsook him.

"Two days after the circumstances I last mentioned, Byron rejoined his countrymen, but no pleasure was expressed on either side at the meeting. Indeed, while he blames the conduct of the captain, Byron honestly confesses that the hardships and disappointments which they were continually suffering, produced unpleasant effects on all their minds—deadening their feelings, and making them neglectful both of each other and of themselves."

"I thought, mamma, you said that Byron's sufferings were useful to him."

"I believe they were in the end; but it is not unlikely that his temper might sometimes be ruffled by the unkind, tyrannical treatment he experienced.

"After he rejoined his companions, Byron, and also Campbell, were kept to hard labour at the oar, and were obliged to work like galley-slaves all day; but deplorable as was the situation of these young men, it was better than that of their captain. His body was in a most dreadful state, with thousands of insects crawling over it—a torment which he took no pains to lessen, having apparently lost the use of his understanding: he could not recollect the names of the officers who were constantly with him, nor even his own. His beard was grown very long, and that and his face were covered with train-oil and dirt, from having accustomed himself to use for a pillow, the bag in which he kept the scraps of seal's flesh, which the Indian sometimes gave him. He took this precaution, for fear the officers should make free with any of his meat while he was asleep. Thus, his selfishness survived the rest of his feelings."

"Oh, what a poor wretched creature he must have been!"

"The sufferings of our travellers were now happily drawing to a close. They reached an island about thirty leagues south of Chiloe. Here they remained two days, waiting for a favourable opportunity of crossing the channel between these islands.

"The very thought of this undertaking appeared to terrify their Indian guide; and, indeed, he had great reason to be afraid; the sea was tremendously rough, dangerous for any open boat, and much more so for the slight canoe that was to take them over. At length the Indian summoned up sufficient resolution to make the attempt. He made a clumsy sail, out of some pieces of blanket, and then they put off from the shore. The bottom plank of the canoe was split, and it opened on every wave. The water rushed continually over the gunnel; and the canoe was almost full, though all hands were employed in baling, without ceasing a moment. The Indian was so completely terrified, that, if it had not been for the English, the whole party must have perished: for in his eagerness to gain the shore, he very nearly pushed the canoe among the breakers, where the sea ran with such violence upon the rocks, that not even an Indian could have escaped. Our officers kept the

boat off, till they got into smooth water; and they soon after landed on the island of Chiloe, though in a part which was not inhabited. There they staid all the next day, in a very heavy snow; for they were so much exhausted by fatigue, as to be under the necessity of resting.

"Towards evening they set off again: and about nine the same night, to their great joy, they observed something that looked like a house: it belonged to an acquaintance of the Indian. Byron had given this man his fowling-piece, to bring him into good humour again, after the loss of the barge, and there was about one charge of powder left. The Indian was desirous of exhibiting his acquisition to his old acquaintance; and he now requested the officers to load his gun for him, and show him how to discharge it. When they had done this, he stood up, and holding his head as far as possible from the terrible gun, he fired; and then down he fell flat into the bottom of the canoe!"

"How the officers must have laughed at this foolish Indian, for being afraid of his own gun!"

"I dare say they did *not* laugh: they were too much in his power to venture to provoke him.

"If the Indian frightened himself, he frightened

his old friends too; for they ran out of the house, and hid themselves in the woods. After some time, one of them, who was bolder than the rest, ascended a hill, and called to the people in the canoe, inquiring who they were? The Indian now made himself known; and they presently came down to the boat, bringing with them some fish, and plenty of potatoes. This was the most comfortable meal which they had had for many months: and when it was finished, they rode about two miles further, to a little village, where they landed. Here the guide made such a noise, that he wakened all the inhabitants, and obliged one of them to open his door, and make a good fire; for the weather was very cold indeed, being the month of June, which is the depth of winter in Chiloe."

"Yes, because Chiloe is in the southern hemisphere. Lucy has been explaining that to me this morning."

"I am glad she remembered what she had heard, well enough to explain it to you.

"The Indians of Chiloe were people of a very different character from those with whom our adventurers had hitherto been acquainted. Good-natured and compassionate, they seemed to strive

who should take most care of the starving wanderers. They made a comfortable bed of sheep-skins near the fire for Captain Cheap, and laid him upon it.

"It was now about midnight; yet they went out and killed a sheep, of which they made broth. They also baked a large cake of barley-meal. When the strangers had satisfied their hunger, they went to sleep near the fire, which the Indians took care to keep supplied with fuel. In the morning, Indian women came from far and near, almost every one with a pipkin in her hand, containing broth, potatoes, eggs, and other wholesome and nourishing food."

"How did they go on afterwards, mamma?"

"They were conducted to Chaco, by order of the Spanish governor, and at that port they were put on board a ship and sent to Valparaiso. You may find it on the coast of Chili, opposite to Juan Fernandez. The governor of this place ordered these unfortunate men to be put into a dungeon. In a few days, Captain Cheap and Lieutenant Hamilton were sent to St. Jago.

"Byron and Campbell remained some weeks longer in the dungeon; and they would have suffered severely, from the scantiness of the allow

ance supplied by the governor, had it not been for the generous kindness of the soldier who guarded them; he lay aside half his daily pay to supply their necessities, though he had himself, a wife, and six children to maintain, and could not have the least hope of return from those he was assisting."

"That was a noble, generous action, indeed!"

"A little while afterwards the governor received an order to send Byron and Campbell to St. Jago. This city is the capital of Chili, and it is ninety miles from Valparaiso. There were at this time several ships from Lima delivering their cargoes at Valparaiso: so that almost every day there were large droves of mules going up to St. Jago, laden with various kinds of merchandise. The governor sent for one of the master-carriers, and ordered him to take the English prisoners up with him. The man asked how he was to be paid for the journey, as he should be five days on the road. The churlish governor bade him get that as he could, for he would not advance him a single farthing.

"After taking leave of the generous soldier, who continued his kindness to the last, and brought them several little things to take with

them, they set out on their journey with the carrier, and travelled about fourteen miles the first day. That night they lay in the open fields—a custom common among these carriers, who always stop where there is plenty of pasture and good water for the mules. The next day they passed some mountains; and on the fourth night they lay on a plain in sight of St. Jago, which was about twelve miles distant. Byron appears to have been a young man of pleasing and ingenuous manners, which interested people in his favour. The next morning, as they proceeded towards the city, the carrier who had been very kind to them on the road, entered into conversation with Byron respecting his future conduct, advising him not to think of remaining at St. Jago, where he said there was nothing but extravagance, vice, and folly, but to continue with him, and learn the trade of a mule-driver, in which he gave it as his opinion, that our young hero would soon become very clever. He added, that in this employ Byron would lead a happy and innocent life, far preferable to any enjoyment which the great city before him could afford."

"I am sure this muleteer was a very kind man. What answer did Byron make to him?"

"Byron cordially thanked him for this unexpected offer; but acknowledged that he wished to try the city *first*, and if he did not like it, that then he would accept of the offer which his new friend had so kindly made."

"I think Byron was in the right. It would have been an odd thing for the son of an English nobleman to turn muleteer in Chili!"

"I am of your opinion, Lucy. If Byron had been discouraged by the difficulties and hardships that so remarkably attended his setting out in life, and deserted the profession his friends had chosen for him, he would never have been a British admiral."

"Oh, mamma, was Byron really an admiral?"

"Yes, but not till many years afterwards. He is a striking example in *real* life, of 'Perseverance against Fortune.'"

"I remember that pretty story, in 'Evenings at Home;' but now, dear mamma, tell us more about Byron and the muleteer."

"The honest muleteer could have had no idea of Byron's rank, when he so generously offered to provide for a poor, ragged youth—a stranger and a prisoner. What was it, do you think, that engaged the good opinion of this benevolent man?"

"You said that Byron had pleasing manners."

"Yes, Lucy; and he had what was still better —an active, obliging disposition, and a grateful heart. This muleteer had been very kind to Campbell and Byron on the journey, though they were forced upon him in such an unhandsome manner, by the governor of Valparaiso; and Byron took every opportunity of showing how much he felt this kindness. Whenever any of the mules strayed from the rest, in the wide plains which they crossed, Byron was always attentive, and cheerfully went after the stragglers to bring them back. It was a trifling action, but performed with a good grace, and prompted by right feelings. This gained him the friendship of the muleteer."

"I like Byron, mamma. You see, his sufferings had not spoiled his temper."

"When they arrived at the palace-gate, the muleteer delivered his charge to the captain of the guard, who soon after introduced them to Don Joseph Manso, the president. This gentleman received them very civilly, and sent them to the house of a Scotch physician, where their two countrymen were already lodged. This physician was called Don Patricio Gedd. He had lived a great while at St. Jago, and was much esteemed

by the Spaniards, both for his professional skill and humane disposition. He no sooner heard that four English prisoners had arrived in that country, than he waited on the president, and begged that these prisoners might be lodged in his house. His request was granted; and had these unfortunate Englishmen been his own brothers, they could not have experienced more kind and friendly treatment than they received from Dr. Gedd, during two years which they remained with him."

"And what became of them at the end of the two years?"

"The president sent for them, and informed them that a French ship from Lima, bound to Spain, had put into Valparaiso, and that Captain Cheap and his companions should return to Europe by that conveyance. This was joyful news, though they had passed their time very pleasantly in the capital of Chili. They received great kindness from many of the Spaniards; for there were at this time, at St. Jago, several persons who had been taken prisoners by Commodore Anson, and confined some time on board his ship. All these persons spoke in the highest terms of the kind treatment they had received; and it

appears that the Spaniards were determined not to be outdone in generosity.

"At length our travellers took leave of the benevolent physician, and the rest of their acquaintance at St. Jago, and set out for Valparaiso. On arriving there, the first person they met was the generous soldier. Byron was very much rejoiced that he now had it in his power, in some degree, to reward this good man for his past kindness; and the soldier, who had so nobly assisted them, gratefully accepted what he had never expected to receive. The Englishmen took lodgings, and amused themselves as they pleased till the ship was ready to sail.

"About the 20th of December, 1744, they embarked in the Lys frigate. There were several passengers on board, one of them an old acquaintance of ours. You will remember the name of Don George Juan."

"Oh mamma, is that really true? What, the very person who travelled with Don Ulloa?"

"The very same, my dear Harry. He had been several years in Peru, with Don Antonio de Ulloa, and was now on his return to Europe.

"After various detentions on the coast, the Lys put to sea on the 1st of March, 1745, and came

to an anchor in the road of Brest, on the 31st of October.

"Our adventurers were still considered as prisoners of war; but at length they received permission from the Spanish court to return to England. Of this they gladly availed themselves, and landed at Dover, whence they immediately set out for Canterbury, on post-horses. There they shared what little money was left, and found that it was not enough to pay their expenses to London. Byron's part was barely sufficient to pay for horses, without allowing a farthing for eating on the road, or even to pay the turnpikes."

"Poor fellow! but could not he ask somebody at Canterbury to help him?"

"He took the shortest way of managing that difficulty. You know he had been accustomed to hunger, so that part of the business was easily settled; and as for the turnpikes, he galloped through them as fast as he could, without paying the least attention to the shouts of the turnpike-men, who endeavoured to stop him. When he arrived in London, he took a coach, and drove to Marlborough-street, where his family lived when he left England. Alas! they were no longer there. He found the house shut up. Having

been absent so many years, and in all that time not having heard from home, he did not know whether his friends were dead or alive: he could not tell where to go, and he had no money left to pay the coachman."

"I thought all his difficulties were over when he got to London, but it seems I was mistaken."

"Without money and without friends, a person may be almost as badly off in London as in the forests of America. Happily, Byron recollected a linen-draper's shop, where his family used to deal. He told the coachman to drive there; and having made himself known, the linen-draper was so kind as to pay the coachman. He then inquired after his family, and heard that his sister was married to Lord Carlisle, and was at that time in Soho Square. Byron immediately walked to the house, and knocked at the door."

"Ah! his difficulties are all over now!"

"Not quite; for the servant thought him such a strange-looking fellow, that he was going to shut the door in his face. Indeed, he was an odd figure; for his dress was half French and half Spanish, and his great boots were covered with dirt. At last, Byron's eloquence overcame the scruples of the servant, and he let him in.

"What Lady Carlisle felt when she saw her beloved brother, I shall not attempt to describe. When she asked what had befallen him, I dare say the first circumstance he related, was, that he had eaten nothing since he left Canterbury. And I leave you to imagine the pleasure she must have felt in supplying him with all the comforts of *home*."



STORY III.

A WINTER IN CHARLTON ISLAND.

"MAMMA, I suppose you never heard how Hudson and his people lived during the winter they spent in Hudson's Bay. I think those wicked sailors would not like to speak about the voyage, after behaving so ill."

"No, I never heard how Hudson contrived to support himself and his people through that dismal winter; but about twenty years after his unfortunate voyage, a ship from Bristol, commanded by Captain James, was under the hard necessity of remaining all the winter in those inhospitable regions. If you have any curiosity on the subject, my dear Harry, I can tell you what happened to them."

"That will be very kind of you, dear mamma; and it will be something different from your other stories. You have told us about a summer in Iceland, and a summer in Hudson's Bay, but a northern winter is quite new."

Lucy inquired whether Captain James went to Hudson's Bay, in hopes of hearing something of those poor men who had been so shamefully left there.

"I believe this voyage had no connexion with Hudson; but the same desire which induced that unfortunate man to explore those unknown seas was still felt in England. It was supposed that great advantages would result from the discovery of a north-west passage into the Pacific Ocean; and the failure of those who had hitherto made the attempt, instead of discouraging others, only increased their ardour to repeat the hazardous experiment.

"For this purpose, several merchants of Bristol formed themselves into a company, about the year 1630. In the first place, it was necessary to engage a captain who possessed the requisite qualifications for such an enterprise. They accordingly made choice of Captain James, who was not only considered a man of integrity and an experienced sailor, but who had already made some voyages to the northern seas, and was well acquainted with the difficulties he would probably have to encounter.

"As a large ship would have been difficult to

manage in such a navigation, Captain James chose a small vessel, in which he sailed down the Bristol Channel, on the 3rd of May, 1631; but meeting with contrary winds, he sought shelter in Milford Haven, where he remained several days. A fair wind springing up, he took advantage of it, and on the 4th of June arrived in sight of Greenland.

"The next morning his troubles began: the ship was surrounded by ice, from which they tried in vain to extricate themselves. At last they fastened the ship to a large piece of ice."

"Ah, I remember, that was grappling. Well, what did they do then?"

"They took out their ice-poles, and endeavoured to push away the masses of ice which approached the ship. In this attempt all their poles were broken. The danger increased every hour; and the next day such prodigious masses of ice assailed them, that they expected the ship would have been crushed to pieces. By spreading the sails she escaped, but only to dash with more violence on another fragment of ice. This shock broke the shallop to pieces; and they were obliged to launch the long-boat, in order to pick up the parts of the shallop, which they fortunately recovered and placed on the deck. The ship then made her way, during

a violent storm, through obstacles that every moment threatened her destruction."

"I suppose," said Lucy, "this unlucky shallop was towed along after the ship, by a rope. I have seen boats fastened to ships in that manner. Whereabouts was the ship when this accident happened, mamma?"

"Near the most southern point of Greenland. On the 10th, the sea being very rough, and some masses of ice in sight, higher than the top-mast, the long-boat (which had probably been fastened in the manner you were speaking of, Lucy,) broke from the stern, and two of the sailors were sadly bruised and hurt in trying to recover it, which, however, they accomplished."

"Ah, poor fellows! now they are coming among the ice-bergs, I suppose they will have hard work of it."

"After receiving many shocks from these ice-bergs, on the morning of the 18th of June they perceived the island of Resolution, in the opening of Hudson's Straits, and they endeavoured to steer the ship round the southern point."

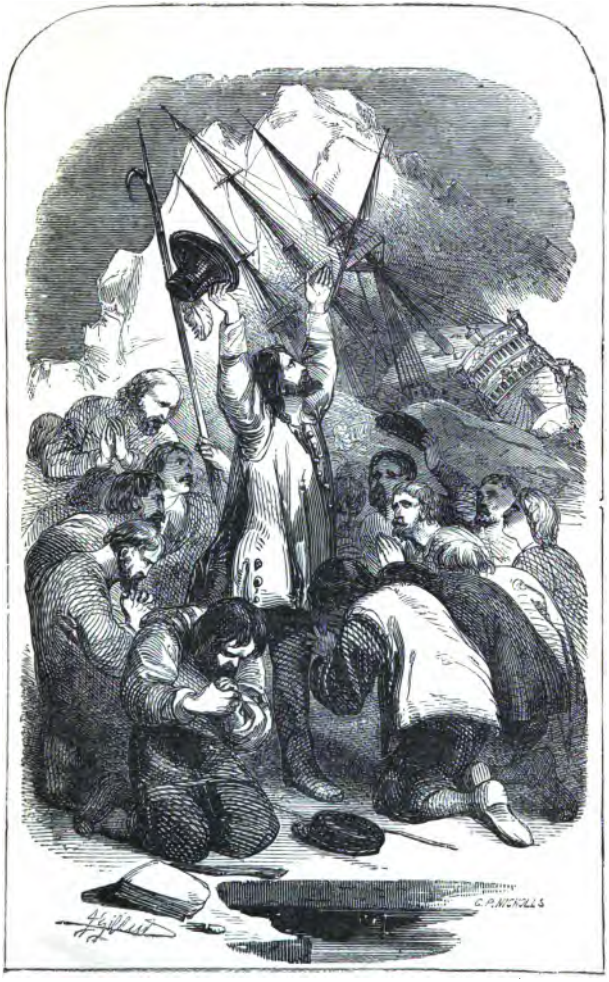
"See, Harry, we can now tell exactly where they were, for here is the little island of Resolution. What an odd name for an island!"

"Captain James must have thought it a very suitable name, when he contemplated the discouraging prospect that presented itself, after he had succeeded in doubling the southern point. I am sure he had need of a good, firm resolution, to help him through his difficulties. The entrance to Hudson's Straits was filled with ice, closely wedged together; and in attempting to proceed, the ship was fast enclosed, and driven to and fro, as the ice drifted about with the current.

"After a night passed in bustle and alarm, amidst snow and tempest, the ship, at high-water, was driven on a sharp rock, where the ebbing of the tide left her in such a slanting position, that the men could not stand on the deck. Fearing that the ship would never be got off again, and knowing, if this should be the case, there was no way for them to escape, Captain James and his people concluded that their fate was inevitable, and kneeling down on a mass of ice, beside their unfortunate ship, they offered up their prayers to Him who controls the wind and the sea."

"Oh, what a shocking situation that must have been!"

"This is one of the circumstances which should teach us never to despair, let our situation appear



"ON A MASS OF ICE, THEY PRAYED."

ever so terrible. The tide turned, and, to their inexpressible joy and surprise, they once more saw the ship afloat; and, getting on board, they laboured with all their might to extricate themselves from their difficulties. When the ship was clear of this rock, Captain James went ashore over the ice, which formed a continued pavement to the land, where he erected a beacon of stones, and placed a cross upon it. He then named this spot the Harbour of God's Providence."

"I suppose he called it by that name on account of his wonderful escape."

"Three days afterwards they had another escape. The captain having discovered a cove, where he thought the ship might lay more securely, they unmoored her, and warped her away from the ice with all possible expedition. They had hardly proceeded a mile, before the ice to which the ship had been fastened was dashed to pieces with such frightful violence, that every one was convinced that she must have been lost, had she remained in her former station."

"I should like to know what you mean by *warping* the ship, mamma," said Harry.

"To warp a ship, is to change its situation, by pulling it from one place to another by means of

ropes. Ropes used for this purpose are called *warps*.

"They continued struggling with the ice till the 18th of July; by this time their store of bread was a good deal diminished, and the captain thought it prudent to reduce the daily allowance one-half. To add to the dreariness of their situation, they were enveloped in thick fogs; and for three successive days they were closely wedged among the ice: nor could they make the least progress, though they hoisted all their sails, and there was a strong wind."

"That was a very sad case though," said Lucy. "If I had been Captain James, I should have been a little afraid of sharing the fate of Hudson."

"It is true that the sailors began to murmur; but Captain James appears to have been both respected and beloved by the men, and to have understood the art of bringing them into good humour again. He not only encouraged them to hope, by every persuasive argument he could employ, but he pleased the jolly tars, by inviting them to go and drink the king's health on the ice, to which they agreed. In the meantime the unfortunate ship stuck fast, without a man on board.

"But though the captain endeavoured to keep

up the spirits of his men by this appearance of cheerfulness, he secretly felt the justice of their fears, and resolved to take every measure which prudence could suggest for their preservation. However, the ship continued stuck fast till the beginning of August, when some motion was perceived in the ice; and on the 3rd they saw a little open water to the north-west. After much labour the vessel was disengaged, and they continued their voyage. On the 29th they saw another ship, which proved to be an English frigate, engaged, as well as our voyagers, in exploring these unknown seas. Captain Fox, who commanded this frigate, paid a visit to James on board his ship, and next morning sailed away to the south-west."

"I think Captain James and his people must have been very glad to see the faces of some of their countrymen again, after they had been so long shut up among the ice. How sorry I should have felt, when the frigate looked less and less every minute, till at last I could not see even its mast."

"No doubt they felt their situation to be dismal enough: but Captain James was a man of a resolute, persevering temper, and not to be easily deterred from accomplishing the purpose of his voyage

On the 3rd of September he stood in for the shore, and arrived at a cape, which in honour of the queen he called Henrietta Maria."

"What queen could that be, mamma? I have heard of Queen Mary, and Queen Elizabeth, and Queen Ann: I thought those were the only queens of England."

"You forget, Lucy, that the wife of a king is a queen. Who was king of England in the year 1631?"

"Thirty-one—that is between twenty-five and forty-nine: I will tell you, mamma.

'King James the First of England,
To Ann the Dane was wedded:
King Charles was crown'd in twenty-five
In forty-nine beheaded.'

"But my story does not say who King Charles's wife was."

"Her name, as you have just heard, was Henrietta Maria. She was the daughter of Henry the Fourth of France: but though the daughter, and wife, and mother of kings, she experienced the miseries and privations of the most extreme poverty."

"That is very strange. I thought kings and queens were richer and more powerful than any

body else. I should like to read the history of poor Henrietta, mamma."

"That you may do, if you please, when you are a little older; at present, I think we had better return to Captain James. On the 4th of September arose a tremendous storm: the sea washed over the deck, poured down into the hold, and forced its way into the bread-room, where it spoiled the greater part of the provisions. This dreadful hurricane continued, with unabated violence, till the evening of the following day. At this period of their voyage, almost every day appears to be distinguished by escape from imminent danger. On the 12th, particularly, the ship struck on some rocks, and continued beating against them for five hours; and at length got off, to the astonishment of everybody on board. The vessel being now in a very leaky condition, and winter approaching, they resolved to steer towards the bottom of Hudson's Bay, in hopes of finding a passage into the river of Canada, or at least of wintering in some sheltered situation on the main land, which they thought would afford better chance of sustenance than the barren, rocky islands they had hitherto met with, from which they had been able to obtain no supply, except a few birds. After landing at different

places, where nothing was to be expected but famine, they at last reached Charlton Island on the 7th of October. They had now been four months contending with ice and storms. On this day there was such a fall of snow, that they were obliged to clear the deck with shovels. Next day the sun shone brightly, but its beams had not power to melt the snow. Indeed, the cold was now so severe, that scarcely anything could be prevented from freezing, even by the fire-side; and the sails of the ship were so stiffened by the frost as to be quite useless.

"The boat, which was sent out, with great difficulty reached the shore; and the captain, seeing the winter set in so fast, ordered wood to be cut down for fuel. When as much wood as the ship could conveniently hold had been carried on board, some of the crew, who were ill, requested the captain to have a hut built for them on the island, thinking that living on shore would be serviceable to their health. Having fixed on a convenient spot, the carpenter, assisted by some of the men, was set to work at this building. In the meantime the captain, attended by some of his people, ranged the island in search of inhabitants, but could not find any; and they returned, exhausted by their travels through the snow.

"On the 13th, some of the men desired leave to explore the country, which being granted, they were supplied with powder and shot, and strictly charged not to separate, that they might assist each other in case of an accident. They were also desired to look for a convenient harbour for the ship. On the second day they returned with a small lean deer, and reported that they had seen several more, but no signs of any human inhabitants. In this excursion they spent a night in the woods, where they were almost ready to perish with the cold.

"Soon after, the lieutenant and five of the men obtained leave to try their fortune in the same search; but though they wandered a great way, and staid out all night, they returned without obtaining any provision. In this excursion they had the misfortune to lose one of their companions."

"How did that happen, mamma?"

"I am afraid we are all too fond of indulging our idleness, and avoiding present inconveniences. Sometimes, however, this may have dangerous consequences. The party came to a pond about a quarter of a mile wide, which appeared to be frozen: and merely to save himself the trouble of walking round the edge of this pond, John Bar-

ton, the gunner's mate, attempted to cross it. When he was near the middle of the pond the ice broke, and this unfortunate man sank to rise no more."

"Ah, poor fellow! he had better have trudged on with his companions."

"The hut which had been erected for the accommodation of the invalids, took fire on the 12th; but, happily, the flames were extinguished before they had done much injury. This accident was not without its use, for it made them careful of their fire afterwards. The weather being very severe, the captain staid on shore till the 17th, when he again visited the ship, and found it so entirely incrusted with ice, even to the rigging, that when he looked at it from the shore, it appeared as if it was made of ice."

"Oh, how beautiful and curious that must have been! I would rather see a ship of ice than a palace of ice."

"On the 22nd," resumed Mrs. B., "the gunner, who had lost his leg by an accident, died. His companions had protected him from the cold as much as possible; but the severity of the climate was such that it rendered all their care ineffectual.

"On the 28th, Captain James resolved to run

the vessel aground: he therefore landed part of the stores, and ordered the rest to be put into the great cabin. The next day the ship, though bedded two feet in the sand, continued, during the flowing of the tide, to beat against the shore with a violence that threatened her destruction. As a last resource, the captain went down into the hold with the carpenter, and bored a hole in the bottom of the ship, to let in the water: it of course rose through the opening, and filled the vessel, which, after striking violently against the sand for some hours, and breaking off the rudder, began to settle soon after the water had risen to the upper deck, and then remained stationary."

"I think it was a very odd way of managing to sink the ship on purpose. I fancy Captain James has done for himself now."

"Perhaps Captain James understood that matter quite as well as you do, Harry. He thought sinking the ship was the most likely means of saving it: by and by we shall see whether he thought right.

"When the ship was settled, the evening began to close in, and the captain and his men got into the boat, and with great difficulty reached the shore. Having drawn up their boat on the beach,

they returned to the hut, where they presented a strange appearance to their friends, who had remained on shore: such an incrustation of ice had covered their faces, their hair, and their clothes, that they scarcely knew one another. They made a good fire; and, with the refreshment of a little bread and water, they soon began to feel more comfortable. They then talked over their melancholy situation, and the captain desired every one to express his thoughts freely. William Cole, the carpenter, then gave his opinion, which, no doubt, was listened to with great attention; for he was much beloved, and a very skilful man in his profession."

"The carpenter must be a very important person in such a case," said Lucy; "I should like to know what he thought of their situation."

"He gave his companions but poor encouragement; for he said that he believed the ship was foundered, and would never be of any further service: he added, that she had been beaten so much against the ice and the shore, that her joints and seams must all be loosened; and that he could not contrive any way of placing her in such a situation as to admit of his getting at the leaky places to repair them. Beside all these difficulties, the

rudder was lost; and if he made another, he had no iron-work to hang it on with."

"I did not expect him to talk in that way," said Lucy; "for my part, I think William Cole is rather a desponding person."

"He was not alone in the unfavourable opinion he entertained of the situation of the ship. Some of the company said she was run up so high on the sands, that she never could be got off again; others, that she would be dashed to pieces by the ice; that the anchors, which were under the ice, would be also broken; and many other discouraging things.

"At length it was the captain's turn to speak."

"Come," exclaimed Harry, "now for *his* speech! let us hear the captain. What did he say, mamma?"

"My faithful companions, be not dismayed for any of these disasters; but let us put our whole trust in God. It is he that giveth, and he that taketh away—his will be done. If it be our fortune to end our days here, we are as near heaven as in England. We may use all honest means to save and prolong our lives; and in my judgment, we are not yet so far past hope of returning to our native country, but that I see a fair way by which we may effect it. Admit the ship be foundered,

yet have those of our own nation and others, when they have been in these extremities, even out of their lost ship built them a pinnace, and been recovered to their friends again. If it be objected, that they have happened into better climes—yet there is nothing too hard for courageous minds, which hitherto you have shown, and I doubt not will still do to the uttermost."

"O, brave captain! he is just fit to manage English sailors!"

"Were those the *words* Captain James used, mamma? If so, I think he had an odd manner of speaking."

"It did not appear strange at that time, my dear Lucy, because other people spoke in the same manner. I have only told you part of his speech, but have used almost exactly his own words, because I thought you would like to hear what he really said on this occasion."

"Thank you, mamma: I do like to hear his very own words; for he was a fine, brave fellow. I wish Lucy would not be so particular about it!"

"Do not be impatient with your sister, Harry. I was pleased to find that Lucy could distinguish a turn of expression so different from our manner of speaking at present."

"But, mamma, I want to hear what the *sailors* thought about the captain's speech."

"I believe a disposition to hope for better times is natural to most men; and it is generally easy to convince them of what they feel pleasure in believing. The captain's encouraging speech gave them all fresh spirits: and they declared their willingness to work to the utmost of their strength, and to refuse nothing that he should order them to do, were it even at the hazard of their lives. He thanked them all, particularly the carpenter, for this cheerful compliance with their duty, and promised to reward those who were active and industrious. They then resolved to build a new pinnace, with such timber as they could find in the island, and in the spring, if the ship proved useless to break it to pieces, and finish the pinnace with the planks and other materials. Having settled these important resolutions, they arranged themselves near the fire, and lay down to rest for the night.

"On the 30th, a service was required from the surgeon, which, you may think, was not exactly in the line of his profession: this was to cut the captain's hair short, and shave away all the hair from his face; for it had become so stiff with icicles, as to be intolerably troublesome."

"Oh, mamma! do you really think Captain James wore a long beard?"

"I do not suppose he wore such a long beard as you have seen represented in paintings of the old patriarchs; but, no doubt, he dressed as other people did at that time. Look at this picture of Charles the First. Do you not think, that if icicles were dangling from these mustachoes, and from this tuft of hair on the chin, it would be very inconvenient? How troublesome too would this hair be, which waves down his neck, if it was heavily laden with the same appendages!"

"Troublesome indeed!" said Lucy. "The icicles would rattle about, whenever he turned his head. But how did the other people do, mamma?"

"They followed the example set by the captain, and then prepared to work. The first object they had in view was to obtain such of the clothes and provisions that were left in the ship, as the water would allow them to get at. Great were the sufferings of the poor men while engaged in this task: when it was completed they built themselves two houses, and a store-house at a little distance, as they were desirous of securing their provisions from the danger of fire."

"How could they build houses in such a desolate place?"



ON THE SIDE OF THE FOREST.

"The houses were of very simple construction, being merely square enclosures, formed with strong stakes, and thickly wattled between the stakes with boughs of trees. The ends of the houses were defended on the outside by piles of bushes, ten feet high and six feet thick: the sides of the house were guarded in the same manner by piles of the trunks of trees, six feet thick and six feet high. They left a little low door to creep into, with a porch before it, made of piles of wood, to prevent the wind from blowing into the entry. Near the top of the end-walls, they left two-holes, to answer the double purpose of windows and chimney."

"But the roof, mamma; you have not told us about that."

"Very true. In the first place they laid a tree from end to end: this formed the ridge of the roof, and supported the rafters. When the building was completed, they spread the mainsail of the ship over all, and brought it down to the ground on the outside. The inside was lined with smaller sails; and round three sides of it they drove in stakes, to form their bedsteads, at a proper distance from the wall, and covered the ground thickly with boughs: over the boughs they spread some spare sails, and placed their bedding upon

them. They even contrived curtains for their beds, with such sails and clothes as they could spare for the purpose. The fire-place was in the centre of the house."

"I thought what they called their house was only one room. Did they build a chimney in the middle of it?"

"The smoke was left to make its own way up to the roof, unconfined by any chimney: it then found a passage through the openings at the top of the end walls. I hope you admire the skill of our good captain displayed in architecture: for my part, I think he was an excellent contriver."

"You said they built two houses and a store-house, mamma. Were they all built in the same manner?"

"The store-house, of course, had no fire in it: the other house was almost exactly like that I have described to you, but smaller, being adapted to the size of the fore-sail, which formed its outside covering. They were both erected in the warmest situation that could be found, among a tuft of thick trees, and screened from the north by a rising bank. I suppose it must have been on the southern side of the island.

"Long before Christmas, their little town, as

they called it, was so thickly covered, that they seemed to be living under a heap of snow. They made paths by shovelling away the snow, and treading it down very hard. This formed a kind of gallery, in which the captain and the sick men used to walk, while the snow deepened around them till it was nearly as high as the top of their houses. With great difficulty they also cut a passage through the snow, from the store-house down to the sea-side. This labour was the last they undertook in the year 1631. And with the conclusion of the year we will, if you please, conclude our conversation."



STORY IV.

A WINTER IN CHARLTON ISLAND.—Part II.

The tea over, lessons for to-morrow's schooling finished, the blinds down, and the lamp lighted, and Lucy, Harry, and mamma were once more gathered round the fire to hear and to tell the rest of the adventures of the party in Charlton Island. Lucy was the first to speak. "Are you ready, dear mamma," said Lucy, "to begin the year 1632? We wish very much to hear the rest of Captain James's adventures. Harry, should not you have liked to pay them a visit in their snug little town, and to walk with Captain James in his snow-gallery! I did not expect they would have been able to make such a comfortable house."

Harry assented—but their mother observed that the "snug little town" was not so comfortable a place as Lucy imagined; for though every pre-

caution had been taken, by making very thick walls, and screening the entrance by a porch, the inside of the house was hung with icicles, and the bed-clothes covered with hoar-frost, though a fire was kept in the middle of the room."

"I thought ice was frozen water: where did the water come from that made these icicles?"

"There are always watery particles in the atmosphere, though we do not perceive them while they are in the state of vapour."

"I do not understand that, dear mamma."

"You have often seen the steam rising through the little holes in the lid of the tea-urn. What becomes of that steam?"

"I do not know where it goes to. Oh! I remember now. It vanishes, when it has risen up a little way. How can that be, mamma?"

"Because it mingles with the air in the state of vapour, and then we cannot see it; or, as you express it, it vanishes."

"But this does not explain the icicles."

"Have you ever observed the appearance of the windows of a carriage, when you have been riding, on a cold day, with the glasses up?"

"Yes, to be sure I have. It is very tiresome indeed: for the glasses are all misty, and you can

see nothing at all, unless you keep rubbing them with the tassel every minute."

"Suppose, instead of rubbing them with the tassel, you were to wipe them with your handkerchief."

"I should not like to do that; it would make my handkerchief so wet. But, mamma, where does that water on the coach-windows come from? It cannot be the rain, for it is on the *inside*."

"When water is in the state of vapour, and invisible, a certain degree of cold will bring it back again into water: a still greater degree of cold changes it to ice."

"Oh, yes!" exclaimed Lucy, "I have seen the chamber-windows, on a cold frosty morning, covered with ice in the shape of trees and plants, and a great many curious forms; but I did not know before, that the water which made that ice had been mixed with the air of the room, without my seeing it."

"You must not call it water while it is invisible: it is then vapour. Well, you can easily suppose that there must have been a great deal of vapour in Captain James's houses, where the pot was boiled, and the steam from the hot water was so frequently rising; and when the steam touched

the cold walls, it would instantly change into water, and trickle down them. But it could not remain water long, on account of the extreme cold, and these trickling streams must necessarily be converted into icicles."

"Thank you, mamma: I quite understand that; but I wonder that the walls should be so *very* cold, when there was always a fire in the room."

"Oh, you have no idea how cold it was? The cook soaked his salt meat in a brass kettle, which he set close to the fire. Captain James often found, by putting his hand into it, that though the water on the side next the fire was very warm, there was, at the same time, on the opposite side of the kettle, a crust of ice an inch in thickness!"

"I could hardly have thought such a thing possible; but as Captain James was a good man, I suppose he spoke the truth. Do you believe it, mamma?"

"I think it is not likely Captain James would have said it, unless it was true. And I know that, even in this country, by mixing salt with snow, a degree of cold may be produced which will freeze milk at a little distance from the fire. I remember the delight with which I watched my father

try this experiment, when I was about your age, Lucy."

Harry, always glad to hear of new experiments, said, "Will you try this for us, some cold day, dearest mother? It is very puzzling though; for the other evening you said that the saltness of sea-water *prevented* it from freezing. I wish I could understand all these things."

"Have patience to learn a very little at a time, but learn that little thoroughly; and, by degrees, you may gain a great deal of knowledge. I must, however, tell you, my dear Harry, that unless you recollect what you have heard more exactly than on the present occasion, you will not improve much."

"Did you not say that the saltness of sea-water prevented it from freezing?"

"No: I said that it prevented it from becoming hard, close, transparent ice; and that the ice of sea-water resembles tallow or suet."

"I shall try to remember that; but now, pray tell us a little more about Captain James."

"They suffered most from the cold, when they went upon the ice to examine the situation of the ship. Their eye-lashes froze so that they could not see; for it does not appear that they had any

snow-eyes; and the intensity of the cold made it so painful and difficult to breathe, that the captain thought a man would be stifled if he were exposed to it, though only for a very few hours."

"Dear mamma, just tell us what you mean by *snow-eyes*."

"They are a kind of spectacles, used by the Esquimaux; but instead of glass, they have two pieces of very thin wood, with a narrow slit in the centre of each: through these they can see distinctly, while the wood protects their eyes from the severity of the air, and from the strong reflection of the snow, which is very prejudicial to the sight."

"That is an ingenious contrivance of the poor Esquimaux! But, mamma, do not you think it very surprising that it should be so cold in Charlton Island? You see, it is not far to the north."

"Very true, my dear Lucy. Charlton Island is in the same latitude as London; but the degree of cold does not entirely depend upon the latitude."

Harry said *he* knew that, because he remembered that poor Ulloa was almost starved on the top of Pichinca; though that mountain is so near the equator.

"Yes, Harry, but Pichinca was a very *high* mountain, and mamma said that such situations are extremely cold in every part of the world; now Charlton was only a little island. I am sure there must be some other reason. Will you explain it, dear mamma?'

"It seems to be a fact, that the degree of cold is much greater in America than in countries of corresponding latitude in our hemisphere. When you are older, I think you will have great pleasure in reading and considering the reasons which have been assigned for this difference."

"Perhaps," said Lucy, "we could understand some of the reasons *now*, if you would be so kind as to explain them a little."

"Through the whole extent of America we find lofty mountains, crowned with perpetual snow. The winds that blow over these frozen regions must therefore be extremely cold. The lower parts of that vast continent, in some places, abound with lakes and marshes; and in others the country is covered with immense forests, where trees of gigantic size prevent the sun-beams from warming the ground. Shade and moisture are powerful causes of cold. We have also strong reasons for

believing that if the land in America were cleared and cultivated, as it is on our side of the globe, the climate would be exceedingly improved."

"I like to hear reasons, when you think I can understand them. When I do not understand things they tire me."

"I think you need not be tired on this occasion, my dear boy. It is thought that this would be the case, because, a great many years ago, before the countries of Europe were cleared and cultivated, they appear to have been as cold as America."

"Oh, mamma, tell us about that! Was England ever so *very* cold?"

"The cold was so great in the northern part of our island, that it was very thinly peopled on that account; but Norway, Sweden, and half of Russia, were then considered too cold to be inhabited by men."

"That is astonishing. Were there very large forests in Europe then, mamma?"

"Yes; the middle and northern countries of Europe not only abounded with lakes and marshes, but were shaded by immense forests. The Hercynian forest in particular, being in the northern part of France, or the Netherlands, which

were then called Belgic Gaul, extended so far to the east, through Germany and Poland, that it required sixty days to travel through it.

"In the time of Julius Cæsar, this forest was inhabited by the rein-deer, an animal which is found in cold regions only, and at present cannot live in any country to the south of the Baltic. Indeed, the climate of the middle parts of Europe, appears at that time to have equalled in severity anything which we now hear of Lapland or Siberia, or the dreary shores of Hudson's Bay."

"And what was the climate of the south of Europe in those days?"

"The rivers of Italy were generally frozen in the winter; though now the inhabitants of Rome think that season very rigorous, if the snow lie for two days on the ground, or a few icicles hang as long, from a fountain that is exposed to the north. In the countries bordering on the northern shores of the Black Sea, the cold was still more severe: the winter lasted eight months of the year: and the inhabitants lived, during that inclement season, in houses under the ground, as the Kamtschadales do at present, and, like them, were wrapped in furs, whenever they had occasion to leave their winter dwellings. The Black Sea itself froze so

hard, that oxen and carriages passed over it; and ships were sometimes crushed to pieces from the pressure of the ice, as they now are in the Arctic Ocean."

"Oh, mother, I could not have imagined such a thing?"

"If you had visited the inhabitants of the banks of the Danube in winter, they would not have offered you a glass of wine, Harry, but called for an axe, and chopping a piece off the frozen mass, presented you with a solid lump of wine. And you might probably have seen their beards and hair covered with icicles, in the same manner as those of Captain James and his companions, whom we appear to be in some danger of forgetting."

"We have not forgotten them, indeed; but will you just tell us whether you really believe this wonderful change in the climate of Europe is owing to cultivation?"

"Yes, I do believe it, Lucy! and I think the present situation of America affords some proof of the justice of that opinion. Cultivation is there gradually extending; and where the marshes have been drained, and the forests cleared, the climate has, in proportion, become more temperate; and not only more temperate, but more healthy: for,

as the progress of cultivation has rendered the country more open and dry, many fatal diseases, which used to prevail, have been restrained and diminished.* The wild beasts retire to less frequented regions; and health, plenty, and security surround the dwelling of enlightened man.

"Thus you see, that not only in acquiring influence over our fellow-creatures, but even in changing and improving the condition of the globe which we inhabit, 'Knowledge is power.'"

"Ah, mamma, I know *that* is one of your favourite sayings!"

"As you grow older, my dear Harry, experience will convince you of its truth. But let us now return to Captain James, who was just going to enter into a new year."

"Yes, I remember it: the year 1632. They had cut a passage through the snow down to the sea: and that job finished the old year. What did they do in the new one?"

"The beginning of the year, indeed nearly the whole of January, was extremely cold; but while the earth presented only a dreary waste of snow, their eyes were attracted towards the heavens, by the brilliant spectacle which they offered. Captain

* See Rees's Cyclopedia, Art. *Climate*.

James even thought that he could see more stars, by two-thirds, than he had ever seen before; so much was his sight dazzled and confused by the sparkling brightness of the stars.

"In the month of February, many of the men were attacked by the scurvy; a terrible disorder, which grievously added to their sufferings."

"The carpenter, whose services were so important, was on the sick list; but so earnest was he to continue his exertions for the common good, that he persevered in his labour, though by the end of March he was reduced to such a state of weakness, that his companions were obliged to lead him to his work. Poor man! he grew worse and worse and on the first of April, as they all sat round the fire, they held another consultation on their unhappy circumstances. Though the spring was so far advanced, the cold was very little abated. The carpenter, and several others, were no longer able to do anything; so that there was no hope of being able to complete the pinnace in time to be of any service.

"All these things being considered, they resolved to clear the snow from the upper deck of the ship, and to dig away the ice that surrounded it, in hopes of being able to find the anchors and the long-lost rudder."

"To their inexpressible satisfaction, they found the condition of the ship to be much better than they had expected. This so greatly encouraged them, that they cheerfully set to work to clear the ice out of the vessel: they also stopped the leaks, and repaired, to the best of their ability, the other damages which the ship had sustained. They thawed the pumps, by continually pouring hot water into them; and, by the 28th, they had the pleasure of seeing them both at work again. The next day it rained all day long. This was a most welcome sight, as it afforded a sure indication that the winter was breaking up. The beginning of May was, however, very cold, with storms of wind and snow. The sick were in a sad, languishing condition, and, on the 6th, the master's mate died. His companions buried him the same evening, on the top of a bare, sandy hill.

"On the 18th they lost poor William Cole, the carpenter, who had borne his long illness with great patience. He was much beloved; and in the evening, as many of the party as were able to walk, accompanied his body to the grave, which was prepared beside that of the mate. After the funeral, Mr. Price, the master of the ship, walked down to the shore, and went on board the vessel;

while he was looking about, he saw part of the body of a man sticking fast in the ice. He told the captain of this; and the next morning some of the sailors went and dug out the body of the poor gunner, which had been committed to the sea nearly six months before. In the evening he was buried on the hill of sand, by the others."

"Ah!" said Lucy, "it must have made them all very sorrowful, to see one grave made after another on that hill?"

"It may generally be observed, in the wise government of Providence, that when people are afflicted in one way, they receive consolation in another. This is better expressed by the poet:

'Lest man should sink beneath the present pain,
Lest man should triumph in the present joy,
For him the gracious laws of Heaven ordain
Hope in his ills, and to his bliss alloy.'"

"Those are very pretty verses, mamma, and easy to understand. I hope you have some good news in store for Captain James. Poor fellow! I am sure he has need of a little hope, to keep up his spirits."

"On the 24th of May the sun shone very powerfully; and the warmth of its beams not only melted the ice close to the shore, but it cracked

all over the bay in which the ship was, with a tremendous noise. The captain, perceiving that the ice drove towards the ship, sent some of his people to take such precautions as he judged necessary. One of the men who was at work upon the ice, struck his lance upon something, which, on examination, proved to be the long-lost rudder. He called out that he had found it! His companions went to his assistance; and, by their united efforts, they disengaged it from the ice, and got it safely on board the ship. This was a joyful day to them all; and they united in returning thanks to Providence for the fresh hopes which they might now reasonably entertain. The last day of this month was distinguished by another blessing. They found, near the beach, some vetches just springing up out of the ground. These were carefully gathered, and boiled for the use of the invalids."

"I can understand, very well, the reason of their joy at finding the rudder; for they could not steer the ship without that. But I wonder that you should call such a little thing as finding a few vetches a blessing."

"Harry, do you call health a blessing?"

"Certainly, mamma: nobody can doubt that. But what has health to do with vetches?"

"I told you how very ill many of these poor men were. Two of them, you know, died; and many others were in a most deplorable state. Some had been quite unable to move for two or three months, and were as helpless as infants; but it was wonderful how soon they were restored to health by eating plentifully of these vetches. Twice a day, those who were able went and gathered the leaves of this precious plant. After having washed and boiled them, they ate them with oil and vinegar which had been frozen. The greater part of the company ate nothing else; and, in a fortnight, those who had been the worst were grown strong, and could run about."

"That is very surprising; I could not have thought such a little plant would do so much good."

"Having thus recovered their strength, the great object of their anxiety was to get the ship afloat again. By taking advantage of every high tide, they got her further and further by degrees; and on the 22nd, in the evening, they towed her to the place where she had anchored the year before. The next day they were busily employed in carrying their remaining provisions on board; for they wished to be quite prepared to take advantage of the first opening of the ice, as soon as it would permit them to go to sea.

"During their stay in this island, they had cut down a very large tree, which they now lopped into the form of a cross; to this the captain fastened the pictures of Charles the First and his queen, carefully wrapped in lead, to secure them from the injury of the weather. On the outside was fixed a shilling and sixpence coined in the same reign; and underneath, the king's arms, and those of the city of Bristol. It was now Midsummer-day; and they raised the cross on the top of the hill where they had buried their deceased companions.

"On the 25th, in the morning, the boatswain, with some people to assist him, began to rig the vessel. The other sailors took more of the provisions on board; and the captain, attended by one of the men, went to the highest eminence in the island, to make a fire by way of signal, in case any human beings should be in sight; for he thought he might, perhaps, obtain some information from them. On this hill there was a lofty tree, which the captain climbed, thinking that, if any people saw his signal-fire, they would make a fire too, by way of answer. He therefore ordered his man to set fire to one of the low trees that grew thereabouts. The man foolishly did so, on



THE FOREST ON FIRE.

that side of the captain's tree which was nearest the wind; and the flames spread so rapidly from one tree to another, that before the captain could descend from his lofty station, his tree had taken fire at the bottom, and blazed so fiercely upwards, that he was forced to leap to the ground at the risk of his life, and run down the steep hill: with all the exertion he could make, he narrowly escaped being burned."

"Oh, I am very glad that he did escape! It would have been shocking to die in that manner, just when he appeared likely to conquer all his difficulties."

"How did they put out the fire?" said Harry.

"That was too great an undertaking for them to attempt. The moss on the ground was as dry as flax; and the fire ran along with astonishing swiftness. The captain slept but little that night: his mind, probably, was too anxious and agitated. At break of day he ordered all the gunpowder to be carried on board, also some beef and spare sails. A sentinel was left on the hills, to watch the progress of the fire, which continued to burn furiously. About noon the wind changed, blowing the flames towards the houses. The sentinel ran for his life, and brought word that the fire was following fast

after him. They attempted to pull down the houses, and carry away their last remaining things; but the fire was too swift for them, and, seizing on their little town, presently burned it to the ground. Happily, they lost nothing of value, as they had been removing their things for some days. That night they all slept on board, and returned thanks to Heaven that they had their own old ship to sleep in again."

"What an escape that was! Did the fire burn the tree that had the pictures on it?"

"No: the hill being dry and sandy, there was nothing to burn; and the fire did not come near that tree. Before they left the island, the captain made his people collect a quantity of stones, and carry them up to the burying place. With these they built three tombs, over the graves of their departed friends, filling up the intervals between the stones with sand, so as to make them of a regular and handsome form. The next day, which was the last of June, they completed their labours, and got the ship as much into order as circumstances permitted."

"Then I suppose they sailed away the next morning."

"No: the next day was Sunday; and the cap-

tain thought the best way of spending it, was to go on shore on that island, where they had been preserved through so many dangers, and unite in offering solemn worship to the great Father of all, who not only created all, but preserves them continually by his superintending providence."

"I see that Captain James always thought of God, both when he was in trouble, and when every thing was going right."

"If he had forgotten and neglected his Creator, when every thing was 'going right,' do you think he could have expected his prayers to be heard when he was in distress?"

"Indeed, mamma, I do not think he could."

"Remember this, then, my dear boy; for with you everything is now 'going right;' but we cannot tell how long it may be the case."

"I know it; and I wish that I may never forget *Him.*"

"On Sunday morning, the 1st of July, they rose early, and dressed the ship gaily with flags and colours; for this was indeed a day of rejoicing.

"Then they went ashore, the cook carrying the kettle to dress their dinner. They also marched to the sound of a drum with colours flying. In

this order they proceeded to the cross on the hill, beside the tombs. There they read the morning prayer, and then walked up and down till dinner-time. After dinner, they went to examine the devastation made by the fire, and found that it had extended at least sixteen miles to the westward, and nearly the whole breadth of the island. They read prayers again in the afternoon, and afterwards had their supper. When the sun was set, the boat came ashore to fetch them; but they could not leave that place without some feelings of regret. They assembled together, and went to take a last look at the tombs of their friends.

"Here, leaning on one of the tombs, the good captain uttered his mournful thoughts in some verses, which, though marked by the quaintness of expression peculiar to that time, sufficiently show the kindness and goodness of his heart, and awakened feelings of tenderness and pity in those who heard him. After this, they returned to the boat, and departed, never more to set foot on Charlton Island."

"O, mamma! pray do not leave off there: tell us what happened afterwards."

"On Monday morning they arose betimes, and prepared for sailing. On weighing the last an-

chor, the captain again returned thanks to the Almighty for their past deliverances, and besought the continuance of his gracious protection. They then cheerfully set sail, through a sea still much encumbered with ice, which occasioned a repetition of the same dangers that had attended their former passage through Hudson's Bay. Still the undaunted spirit of our heroic commander would have induced him to attempt again to find the long-sought passage to the Pacific Ocean; but perceiving the reluctance of his men, he held a consultation with the officers, respecting the propriety of endeavouring, even now, to accomplish the original purpose of their voyage; and desired them to consider the business, and give him their opinion in writing. On this, the master of the ship, the lieutenant, mate, surgeon, and boatswain, retired and discussed the question by themselves. The result was, a united request that the captain would risk no further discoveries, but take them immediately to England; alleging the leaky condition of the ship and the enfeebled state of the crew, whose strength was still unequal to the labour of managing the vessel, in seas so much obstructed by ice.

"This reasonable remonstrance had its just

weight with the captain, who immediately ordered the pilot to steer for England; but it was not till the third of September that they came in sight of the island of Resolution. Do you remember where that is situated?"

"Yes, mamma; it is at the entrance of Hudson's Straits."

"From the 3rd to the 8th, they had variable winds and a tumbling sea. The poor shattered vessel became so leaky, that they were obliged to pump every hour. After this, they saw no ice, and the weather was more favourable.

"On the 22nd of October they arrived at Bristol, where the ship being hauled on shore, to examine her condition, they found she had lost fourteen feet of her keel, besides many other injuries. In one place, a sharp rock had nearly forced its way through. When they saw this they thought their preservation almost miraculous, and all went together to church, where they once more united in acknowledging their grateful sense of the Divine protection.

"Thus ended this remarkable voyage; and I think it is not very likely we shall find a more striking example of heroic courage, united with humble trust in Providence, than in the character of Captain James."

STORY V.

ADVENTURES IN SWEDEN.

"I CANNOT learn to slide this winter, mamma. You see the frost is quite gone, and I am very sorry for it. I do not like these mild winters."

"Ah, Harry," said Lucy, "we have plenty to eat, and warm clothes, and good fires; so it does not signify to us: but how glad the poor people must be of a mild winter!"

Harry appealed to Mrs. B., inquiring whether *she* thought the poor were always glad of it.

"I think they are," replied his mother; "at least in England: but in Sweden, a very mild winter is considered almost as great a calamity as a bad harvest."

"That is strange indeed! for Sweden is much further to the north; and if people suffer from cold here, I should think they would suffer much more there. What harm does a mild winter do to the Swedes, mamma?"

"It puts a stop to trade, and prevents commu-

nication from one part of the country to another. It is easier to travel in Sweden in the depth of the coldest winter, than in summer. When there is a good hard frost, the Swedes have only to get into a sledge, and they may glide along over the snow, through forests and marshes, across rivers and lakes. It is on account of the ease with which heavy loads are conveyed over the ice, that all the great fairs in Sweden and Finland are held in the winter. Nor is it uncommon for the peasants to take journeys of three or four hundred miles, with whatever they wish to carry to market. There is a fine country for sliding, Harry!"

"Indeed, I should like to skim along in that manner, myself. But how do the Swedes manage, mamma? Are their sledges drawn by dogs, as they are in Labrador and Kamtschaska?"

"No: the Swedes employ horses to draw their sledges."

"I should like them better than dogs. I am sure I could never manage the long-lashed whip of the Esquimaux, nor catch up the stick, while the sledge was gliding along, like a Kamtschadale; but a horse would be easy enough to drive."

"I do not know that: you might find difficulty, even with a horse. Acerbi witnessed an awkward

adventure when he crossed the Gulf of Bothnia. Do you recollect any reason for some parts of the Baltic freezing in the winter, so hard as to allow carriages to pass?"

"Yes, mamma: the water in the Baltic is not so salt as in the open sea,* and there are no tides."

"When the Gulf of Bothnia freezes so hard as to allow travellers to cross it, the Swedes find it very convenient. In mild winters, the ice will not always bear a sledge; and then persons who have occasion to go from Sweden to Finland, are obliged to go all the way round the Gulf of Bothnia."

Harry wondered that they did not take a boat and sail over. His mother told him it was because such an attempt would be very dangerous, on account of the rocks which abound in that sea, and that she believed it was seldom, if ever, crossed in a boat during the winter. Lucy wished to hear something about the traveller her mother had mentioned as having witnessed an awkward adventure. "Was he a Swede or a Russian?" said she.

"Neither. Acerbi was an Italian, who left his own beautiful country, because he wished to see

* See Adventures in the Arctic Ocean.

how nature looked in her winter dress, and to examine for himself the rude magnificence of the scenery of northern climates. He soon made one discovery."

"A discovery!" exclaimed Harry. "What was it, mamma?"

"That the inhabitants of cold countries are obliged to be much more active and industrious than the natives of warmer regions."

"I am glad to hear that. Your active people are very entertaining, and meet with more adventures than quiet, stay-at-home gentlemen. Oh! I remember you said, just now, that Acerbi had some difficulty about a horse, when he crossed the Gulf of Bothnia. I wish you would tell us about it, dear mamma!"

"Find the Isles of Aland, in the first place."

"Here they are, mamma, in the entrance of the Gulf of Bothnia, just close to the 60th degree of north latitude. Was that where Acerbi crossed?"

"Yes, my dear. It looks a very short passage in the map; but the distance is forty-three miles, thirty of which you travel on the ice, without touching the land. This passage over a frozen sea you must suppose, would appear a very strange thing to a native of Italy. He did not at all know



SWEDISH SLEDGE.

what he was going to undertake. To be sure, he expected a dull journey, over a vast smooth plain of ice, where every mile would be just like the mile he had passed already; but, to his astonishment, he found that the sea, though at first smooth and even, became, as they advanced, more and more rugged. The frozen surface resembled the waves by which the sea had been agitated. At length they met with masses of ice heaped one upon another, some of them in the form of pyramids. It was an immense confusion of icy ruins, of every possible form, and, in some places, of a blue-green colour."

"Did Acerbi travel in a sledge, after the Swedish fashion, mamma?"

"Yes, he did. The party consisted of three travellers and two servants. They were attended by some peasants of the country, from whom, I believe, they hired sledges and horses.

"It was not without difficulty that the sledges were able to proceed amidst those heaps of ice which I have described to you. It was necessary to make frequent windings, following the direction of a frozen wave, in order to avoid the icy mountains that frequently obstructed their progress. In spite of all their care in choosing the smoothest

tract, the sledges were continually overturned. This caused another inconvenience, besides the unpleasantness of being so often thrown out of the sledges upon the ice. To defend themselves from the cold, Acerbi and his companions travelled in pelisses made of the skins of Russian wolves or bears. When any of the sledges were overturned, the horses belonging to that sledge, or to the one next it, frightened at what they supposed to be a wolf or bear rolling on the ice, would set off at full gallop, to the great terror of both passenger and driver."

"Well, that was droll enough, to be taken for a wolf or a bear. I think Acerbi must have been very much diverted at it."

"Perhaps he might have been diverted, if the mistake of the horses had not been dangerous as well as troublesome. One of the most spirited horses in the party took fright in this manner, and completely made his escape. The peasant who drove him, though for some time he kept firm hold of the bridle, in hopes the horse would stop, was at length unable to endure the fatigue and pain of being dragged along through the sharp-pointed masses of ice, and let go his hold. The horse, relieved from the weight of the man, and

feeling himself quite at liberty, redoubled his speed, and galloped over every obstacle. The sledge, which the swiftness of his course caused to dance in the air, added still more to his fright and his speed. When the horse had fled to a considerable distance, he appeared only like a dark spot, which grew smaller and smaller, and at last entirely disappeared. Then it was that Acerbi became sensible that the peasants had acted very prudently, in bringing some spare horses and sledges: he saw how dangerous it would be to cross the Gulf of Bothnia without that precaution. The peasant to whom the runaway horse belonged, took one of the spare sledges, and set off in search of the poor frightened animal."

"Did Acerbi and the rest of the company wait for him?"

"No: they made the best of their way to the Isles of Aland, still being frequently overturned, and always in danger of losing one or other of the horses, which would have perplexed them exceedingly. During the whole of this journey, they did not meet with one man, beast, bird, or other living creature. The dead silence of this frozen desert was only interrupted by the whistling of the wind against the masses of ice, and sometimes by the

loud crackings occasioned by the splitting of the ice itself. Through the rents made by these explosions, may be seen the watery depths beneath; and it is sometimes necessary to lay planks across these chasms, by way of bridges, for the sledges to pass over.

"The travellers stopped at one of the group of islands which bear the name of Aland; and just as they were preparing to continue their journey, they saw, with great pleasure, the two sledges returning with the fugitive. The poor animal was in the most deplorable condition; his body was covered with sweat and foam, and wrapped in a cloud of steam. They durst not go near him. The fatigue he had suffered had not subdued his fierceness; and he was as much alarmed at the sight of the shaggy pelisses as before: he snorted, bounded, beat the snow and ice with his feet; nor would the peasants have been able to prevent his escaping again, if the travellers had not removed to some distance, where the horse could neither see nor smell these formidable pelisses.

"They continued their journey through the whole of the isles of Aland, partly by land, and partly over the frozen sea. Some of these islands are eight or ten miles from each other. On the

sea, the peasants fix branches of trees along the whole route, for the guidance of travellers in the night, or to direct them to find the way after falls of snow. In this manner they proceeded to Abo in Finland, where they purchased sledges, that they might not have the trouble of changing their baggage at every stage. They left Abo on the 20th of March, and continued their journey towards the north, through Finland and Lapland, to that extreme point of Europe called the North Cape. In this long journey they met with many curious adventures; and observed the manners of the natives, so different from those of Italy. I think you would be entertained with their account of the way in which the Finlanders hunt bears and seals."

"A bear-hunt! Oh, mamma! I should like that of all things."

"The favourite weapon of the Finlander, in hunting the bear, is an iron lance, fixed at the end of a pole. At about the distance of a foot from the point of the lance is fixed a cross-bar, which prevents the instrument from penetrating too far into the body of the bear. When the Finlander has discovered where the bear has taken up his winter-quarters, he goes to the place, and makes a

noise at the entrance of his den, by which he endeavours to tease and provoke him to quit his strong-hold. The bear hesitates, and seems unwilling to come out; but continuing to be vexed by the hunter, and perhaps by the barking of his dog, he at length gets up, and rushes in fury from his cavern. The moment he sees the peasant, he rears himself upon his hind legs, ready to tear him to pieces. The Finlander instantly puts himself into an attitude to repel the attack. He brings the iron lance close to his breast, concealing from the bear the length of the pole, in order that he may not be upon his guard, and parry with his paws the mortal blow which the hunter means to aim at him. The Finlander then advances boldly towards the bear; nor does he strike the blow till they are so near each other that the enraged animal stretches out his paw to tear his enemy limb from limb. At that instant the peasant pierces the bear's heart with the lance, which, if not prevented by the cross-bar, would come out at his shoulder: nor could the hunter, without this contrivance, prevent the animal from falling upon him, an accident which might be very dangerous. By means of the cross-bar, the bear is kept upright, and at last thrown upon his

back. It is very extraordinary that the poor creature, feeling itself wounded, instead of attempting to pull out the lance with its paws, holds it fast, and presses it more firmly to the wound.

"When the last struggles of death are past, the Finlander lays hold of the bear, and calls for the assistance of his friends, who drag the carcase to his hut; and the adventure is ended by a feast, where the company are entertained with songs in praise of the exploits of the hunter."

Lucy said she thought the Finlanders must be very bold and active people, to venture on such close combat with these formidable animals. "How frightful it must be, to see a bear reared up on its hind legs so close to one!"

"I am quite of your mind, Lucy; but the courage and enterprise of the Finlanders is still more strikingly displayed in the chase of the seal. The season for this kind of hunting begins when the ice breaks up, and floats in shoals on the surface of the sea. Four or five peasants will then place themselves in an open boat, with one small mast, set off to sea, and be more than a month absent from their families. They kindle a fire on a sort of brick-hearth: live upon the flesh of the seal, which is very good; and bring home

the fat and the skins. The dangers with which they have to struggle in these voyages are terrible: they are continually sailing between masses of ice, which threaten to crush their boat to pieces. They get upon the floating shoals, and, creeping along them, steal cautiously upon the seal, and kill him as he reposes on the ice. Some years ago, two Finlanders set out in a boat, to pursue this dangerous chase. Observing some seals on a little floating island, they quitted their boat, and got upon the ice, moving on their hands and knees, to come near the seals without being perceived. They had taken care to fasten their boat to this little island of ice; but while they were busily engaged in attacking the seals, a gust of wind tore away the boat, which was carried among other shoals of ice; and, by dashing against them, it was broken to pieces, and in a few minutes entirely disappeared."

"Oh, mamma, how shocking! What! were those poor fellows left in the middle of the sea, on a piece of floating ice?"

"Indeed they were. When it was too late, they perceived this unfortunate accident. Two miserable weeks they remained on this piece of ice. The increasing warmth of the spring gradually

melted the frozen surface, rendering their situation more and more alarming. In the anguish of hunger they gnawed the flesh of their arms. At last they yielded to despair, and resolved to plunge together into the sea, to put an end to misery from which they had no prospect of escaping."

"That was killing themselves, mamma. Do you think it was right?"

"Certainly not, my dear Lucy. We have no right to put an end to our lives, under any circumstances. We know that nothing can befall us but what will be for our good, if we try to bear it properly; and it very often happens, when we least expect it, that by some means or other we are delivered from our trouble. So it was with these poor men."

"Did they escape, then? How? Tell us, pray, mamma!"

"On the day when they made the sad resolution, it pleased Providence to preserve them from committing so great a crime. As they were mournfully looking over the wide sea that surrounded them, they discovered a sail. How great must have been their joy! how great their fear that the ship might pass without the crew perceiving them! One of them stripped off his shirt, and

suspended it on the muzzle of his gun. The signal was noticed. The vessel, which was a whale-fisher, put out a boat, and saved these two men from a terrible death."

"That was a happy deliverance. But, mamma, why do you say they were saved from a *terrible* death? I have heard you say, often, that death is not terrible to good people."

"Good people have no reason to be afraid of dying, when sickness, or old age, or any other appointment of Providence puts an end to their lives. I called the death these poor men were saved from, *terrible*—not because it was more shocking to be drowned than to die in any other way, but because their despair and rashness were just going to make them end their lives by their own choice."

"You said that those poor men were a fortnight on the ice. Can anybody live without eating for so long a time?"

"I do not know how long life may be supported without food: probably some people would live longer than others, under such circumstances. But, perhaps, these Finlanders, during the first part of the time, eat the flesh of one of the seals; and I think it most likely that they did so."

"I am glad they escaped at last, poor fellows! and I see it is a very good thing to have patience. What a pity it would have been, if they had drowned themselves, just as the whale-ship was coming!"



STORY IV.

ADVENTURES OF CAPTAIN BLIGH

"MAMMA, Lucy says that in some parts of the world bread, ready made, grows upon trees; but I cannot believe any such thing."

"It is incorrect to say that *bread* grows upon trees; but it is very true, Harry, that the Ladrones, and those numerous groups of islands in the Pacific Ocean, abound with trees bearing a fruit so much resembling bread, that the sailors who have been there, have eaten it in preference to the bread they had with them. Lord Anson, in particular, spent two months at Tinian; and in all that time there was not any of the ship's bread consumed, both officers and sailors preferring the fresh bread-fruit."

"What kind of tree is it that bears this curious fruit?"

"The bread-fruit grows on a tree about the size of a middling oak, with leaves much resembling

those of the fig-tree. The fruit is nearly the size and shape of a child's head. It has a thin skin, and a small core: it is as white as snow, and resembles the crumb of new bread. It must be roasted before it is eaten."

"I wish those trees grew in England, instead of oaks and elms; for then, when poor people were hungry, they need only climb a tree, and they might easily have a good breakfast."

"You do not seem to be aware that the bread-fruit, being a native of warm countries, would not flourish in our cold, uncertain climate. Some years ago it was earnestly desired that this valuable tree might be introduced into our West India islands; and a vessel was sent from England to Otaheite, on purpose to obtain a number of young bread-fruit trees, which were to be carefully planted in pots, and taken to the West Indies. The command of this ship, which was called the Bounty, was given to Captain Bligh."

"And do the bread-fruit trees flourish now in the West Indies?"

"Captain Bligh went to Otaheite, where he procured above one thousand bread-fruit plants. But just as he was ready to proceed to the West Indies with his treasure, he was overtaken by a

calamity which destroyed all his hopes of success, just as they were on the point of being accomplished."

"What was that calamity?" inquired Harry. "I wish, mamma, you would be so kind as to tell us the story from beginning to end."

"All the bread-fruit plants were carefully placed in pots, and nicely arranged in a part of the ship which was fitted up on purpose to receive them; and on Monday night, the 27th of April, 1789, Captain Bligh went to bed, and fell fast asleep, without even suspecting what was going to happen.

"Just before sunrise the next morning, several of the ship's company entered the captain's cabin, and awakened him from his sleep. They seized him without ceremony, tied his hands with a cord behind his back, and threatened him with instant death, if he spoke or made the least noise. Notwithstanding these threats, the captain called as loudly as he could, in hopes that some of the officers would come to his assistance; but those who were not in the plot were already secured. Captain Bligh was hauled out of bed, and forced on deck in his shirt, suffering great pain from the tightness of the rope which confined his hands. He asked the reason of this treatment, but the



OTAHEITE.

mutineers replied only by desiring him to hold his tongue.

"At length the boatswain and carpenter were allowed to come upon deck, and the former was ordered to hoist the launch out. When the boat was ready, three persons were desired to get into it. Captain Bligh inquired the reason of this; but 'Hold your tongue, Sir, or you are dead this instant,' was all the answer he could obtain.

"The mutineers continued to order particular persons to get into the boat; and the captain concluded that he was to be turned adrift with them. The boatswain and sailors who were to go into the boat, were allowed to collect twine, canvass, sails, cordage, and an eight-and-twenty gallon cask of water. Mr. Samuel got 150 pounds of bread, with a small quantity of rum and wine, a quadrant and a compass."

"I know the use of a compass very well; but what was the quadrant for?"

"It is by means of a quadrant that sailors can tell the height of the sun at noon: and *that*, you know, is a very important thing."

"Oh, yes, I remember!" said Harry. "When they know *that*, they can find out the latitude. Ah, I understand it now! The quadrant was to

show them the place they were really in; and the compass, which way they ought to sail. Well, Mr. Samuel made a wise choice, I think."

"The officers and men who had no share in the mutiny being in the boat, Mr. Christian, who appeared to manage this unhappy affair, said, 'Come, Captain Bligh, your officers and men are now in the boat, and you must go with them: if you attempt to make the least resistance, you will instantly be put to death.' And, without further ceremony, they forced the captain over the side of the ship into the boat, where they untied his hands. A few pieces of pork, and four cutlasses, were thrown into the boat, and then they were turned adrift in the open sea."

"Poor creatures!" exclaimed Lucy. "Where were they, mamma, when this sad affair happened?"

"They were near Tofoa, one of the Friendly Islands?"

"Why, they are turned adrift, just like poor Hudson.* What will become of them?"

"Happily for them, they were in a more favourable climate than poor Hudson was.

"As soon as Captain Bligh had composed his

* See a Visit to the Esquimaux.

mind sufficiently to form any resolution, he determined to seek a supply of bread-fruit and water at Tofoa, and afterwards to sail to Tongataboo, another of the Friendly Islands, where he hoped to prevail on the king to give them such a supply of water and provisions as might enable them to reach the East Indies."

"Surely they would never think of attempting to go to the East Indies in an open boat!"

"What would you have them do, Lucy? It was their only means of escape:

> 'The wise and prudent conquer difficulties
> By daring to attempt them.—Sloth and Folly
> Shiver and shrink at sight of toil and danger,
> And make th' impossibility they fear.'"

"I am very glad that Bligh determined to conquer *his* difficulties. Crossing the Pacific Ocean in an open boat! Go on, mamma: we shall hear fine adventures!"

"The first thing to be done was to examine the quantity of provisions which they had in the boat. They found 150 pounds of bread, 32 pounds of pork, 6 quarts of rum, 6 bottles of wine, and 28 gallons of water.

"Happily, it was calm till about four o'clock in the afternoon: this allowed them an opportunity

of examining their stores, and settling themselves a little. A breeze then sprung up, and they sailed towards Tofoa, where they intended to land; but the shore proved so steep and rocky, that they could not accomplish their design. Bligh therefore served half-a-pint of grog to each person; and they laid down to sleep in the boat, as well as their unhappy situation would allow.

"When the morning dawned they rowed along shore in search of a landing-place: and about ten o'clock they discovered a cove with a stony beach, where they anchored within twenty yards of the rocks. A great surf ran on the shore; but the anxious desire they felt to increase their slender stock of provisions, induced some of them to venture through the surf, and by climbing the cliffs get into the country in search of supplies. The rest remained at the cove. Towards noon the party returned with a few quarts of water, which was all they could obtain. As it was uncertain whether they would be more successful in future, each person had only a morsel of bread and a glass of wine for dinner."

"Oh! that was terrible! for I really believe they had had no breakfast. I am sure I should have been very hungry."

"So were they, poor fellows! but they were obliged to bear it as well as they could."

"Why should they bear it?" said Harry; "they had some pork in the boat."

"And where were they to get any more when that was gone? You know, they were going to undertake a long voyage; and they did not know whether they would be able to increase their store, which was already too little.

"In the afternoon the weather was fair; but the wind blew so strong, that they could not venture to sea. This delay made it absolutely necessary to endeavour to procure some provisions: they therefore rowed along shore, and at last discovered some cocoa-nut trees; but they grew on the top of high precipices, and the surf made landing dangerous. As they were very hungry, they resolved to venture; and some of the people, with great difficulty, climbed the cliffs, and got about twenty cocoa-nuts; they tied them to ropes, and by this means the nuts were hauled through the surf into the boat, and each person had one for his supper."

"That was a little comfort for them. I am sure they had need of a supper. How many people were there in the boat, mamma?"

"Eighteen, besides Bligh."

"The next morning, at day-break, they again attempted to put to sea; but the weather would not admit of it. Disappointed in this, they next resolved to land in order to explore the island; and contrived to climb up the precipice by clinging to some long vines, planted by the natives for that purpose, this being the only way into the country.

"They found a few deserted huts, and a small plantain walk, from which they collected only three bunches of plantains. They advanced within two miles of the foot of the highest mountain in the island, which is a volcano almost constantly burning: the neighbouring country is covered with lava, and has a most dreary appearance. They found no refreshment, except the few plantains I mentioned, and about nine gallons of water, which they collected from the hollows of the rocks; and returned to the boats exceedingly faint and tired.

"The whole party being assembled by noon, Bligh gave each person about an ounce of pork and two plantains, with half a glass of wine.

"About 150 yards from the water-side there was a cave, where Bligh determined to sleep that night, with some of his people, that there might be more room in the boat for the others to lie down. One plantain was boiled for each person's

supper, and they had also a quarter of a pint of grog. They then settled who should keep watch during the night, and lay down to sleep in the cave.

"The next day they met with some of the natives, who at first appeared inclined to be friendly, and exchanged some bread-fruit, plantains, and cocoa-nuts, for such trifles as our distressed countrymen could spare. Bligh continued on shore another night. The next day the natives returned in greater numbers; and he perceived, from their manner, that they were no longer actuated by friendly dispositions, but were meditating an attack. They often asked Bligh to sit down; but he refused; suspecting that they intended to seize hold of him if he gave them such an opportunity. Keeping constantly on their guard against the expected attack, Bligh and his companions each eat a cocoa-nut and some bread-fruit for their dinner, and then turned their thoughts to getting everything into the boat."

"I wish," said Lucy, "they were safely out at sea!"

"The number of natives continued increasing: they made fires and determined to stay on the shore all night. Bligh sent word to the officer whom he had left in charge, that when he

saw the party who were on shore coming down, he should push the boat as near to the beach as he could, that they might embark more readily.

"The sun was near setting, when Bligh gave the word, on which every Englishman boldly took up his proportion of things, and carried them towards the boat. The chiefs asked the captain if he would not stay with them all night; and on his refusing to sleep out of his boat, an old chief said: 'You will not sleep on shore? Then we will kill you.'

"The onset was now preparing: the natives kept knocking stones together: all but two or three things were in the boat, and the English walked down the beach in silent horror. The captain and the carpenter stood watching the others embark, and then followed them: while the sailors were hauling Bligh out of the water, through which he was forced to wade in order to reach the boat, one man ran up the beach, to unfasten a rope which held the boat to the shore. Poor fellow, this action cost him his life!"

"What! did the natives seize upon him?"

"No; but the moment Bligh was in the boat, the attack began. The stones flew like a volley of shot. This is the usual mode of fighting among

the savages, who throw large stones with uncommon dexterity. Many of them caught hold of the stern-rope, and were near hauling the boat on shore: happily, Bligh had a knife in his pocket, with which he cut the rope. They then pushed the boat further from the shore, all of them having suffered, more or less, from the stones which were thrown at them."

"What became of the poor man who ran up the beach?"

"He was killed in the beginning of the skirmish. But his companions had not time to lament his fate; for the Indians filled their canoes with stones, and twelve men went off in them to renew the attack. The Englishmen suffered severely, and were unable to return the assault, except with such stones as lodged in their boat; and in this mode of fighting they found themselves very inferior to their enemies. In that dangerous moment a lucky thought occurred to the captain. He ordered some clothes to be thrown overboard. This was a temptation the islanders could not resist; they stopped to pick them up, as they floated about in different directions. In the meantime the English bent to their oars, and pulled to sea. The shades of evening now dark-

ened the face of the ocean; and the natives, after picking up their booty, returned to the shore, leaving our unfortunate countrymen to reflect on their forlorn situation.

'Taking this as a sample of the disposition of these islanders, the captain thought it would be imprudent to risk going to Tongataboo; for he considered the former good behaviour of these people to have arisen from their dread of fire-arms; and the English, being now known to be destitute of this powerful means of defence, would be quite at their mercy. All the people in the boat solicited Bligh to take them towards home. He told them that no relief could be depended upon, till they should reach the Dutch settlement of Timor, a distance of full 1200 leagues. What answer do you think the people made to this discouraging information?"

"Poor fellows! what could they say?"

"They all promised they would live on one ounce of bread and a quarter of a pint of water a day. The captain then examined the stock of provisions, and found nearly 150 pounds of bread, 20 pounds of pork, 28 gallons of water, 3 bottles of wine, 5 quarts of rum, and a few cocoa-nuts. This was not so much as when they left the ship;

for they lost some provisions in the confusion of the attack which they had just sustained. In the most solemn manner the captain recommended his men to be faithful to their promise; and then he bore away, across a sea where the navigation is but little known, without a map or chart to direct his course, in a small boat only 23 feet long, deep laden with eighteen men."

"He had his quadrant and compass though; and I dare say he had a good map in his head, for he seems to be a clever fellow."

"It was about eight o'clock in the evening when they set out on their long voyage. In the first place, Bligh divided his people into parties, that they might rest by turns. He arranged the things in the boat as well as he could; and then they united in returning thanks to the Almighty for their wonderful preservation from the attack of the natives: and trusting that his merciful providence would still protect them, their minds became more tranquil and resigned to their situation.

"The sun rose the next morning very red and fiery, the sure indication of a severe gale of wind. At eight it blew a violent storm, and they were in imminent danger. The sea curling over the stern

of the boat, obliged them to keep baling out the water continually. To increase their distress, their bread was in bags, and consequently liable to be wetted and spoiled by the sea which broke over them. If this misfortune could not be prevented, they must inevitably be starved to death. They therefore threw overboard everything that could be spared, which lightened the boat considerably. Fortunately, the carpenter had a good chest, in which they secured the bread as soon as the weather permitted them to do so. The captain now determined to adhere strictly to the engagement they had made respecting their provisions, and to make the little stock last our for eight weeks, let their daily proportion be ever so small."

"Eight weeks! it must be dreadful to have only one little tiny bit of bread for dinner all that time."

"Very true, Harry; but you know it was necessary to make the provisions last as long as possible, or they would have no chance of surviving.

"In the afternoon the sea ran still higher than before; and the fatigue of constant baling, to keep the boat from filling, was very great. The night was extremely cold; and next morning, their limbs were so benumbed, with being so long

in their wet clothes, that they could scarcely move. The captain indulged each person with a tea-spoonful of rum, from which they received great benefit.

"On the 5th and 6th of May they passed some islands, but durst not venture to land, as they had no arms to defend themselves in case they should be attacked by the natives."

"I should like to understand exactly in what direction they were sailing. Here are the Friendly Islands, mamma."

"You know they were going to Timor. They passed the New Hebrides: they sailed then to the south of the island of Louisiade, and passed between New Guinea and New Holland to Timor."

"Ah! here is Timor to the north of New Holland! Now go on, mamma."

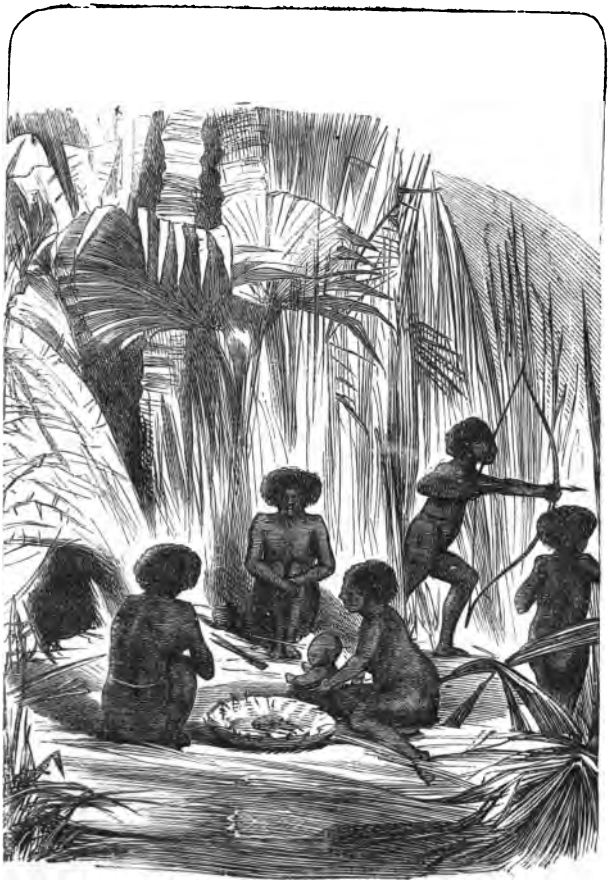
"As the boat was too small for the number of persons it contained, they endeavoured to remedy this inconvenience by dividing themselves into two companies; so that one half always sat up while the other lay down in the bottom of the boat, or on the chest, with no covering but the sky. About four o'clock in the afternoon it rained heavily, when every person did his utmost to catch some water, and they increased their stock

to thirty-four gallons, besides quenching their thirst for the first time since they had been at sea. But they passed the night very miserably; for being extremely wet, and having no dry clothes to put on, they experienced terrible cold and shiverings. Fortunately, the next morning was fair, and they stripped and dried their clothes. The allowance of food this day was an ounce and a half of pork, a tea-spoonful of rum, half a pint of cocoa-nut milk, and an ounce of bread. In the afternoon they cleared the boat, and employed themselves till sun-set in drying and putting everything in order. The captain also made a pair of scales of two cocoa-nut shells, that he might divide the daily allowance more exactly. At night he gave each of them a quarter of a pint of water, and half an ounce of bread, for supper."

"I cannot guess at all about these weights and measures. I want to know how much it would look."

"I believe a common coffee-cup holds about a quarter of a pint. Fetch my little scales, Lucy; and you, Harry, may ring the bell for a piece of bread. We will weigh some ourselves, and then you will be able to judge."

"Oh, mamma, that never can be all—that



A MALAY FAMILY.

little piece is not so big as two of papa's fingers."

"And yet you see it weighs a full half-ounce. Such a piece of bread as this, and a coffee-cup full of water was all that those poor fellows had for their supper."

"I do not think I should feel any difference between eating and drinking so little as that, and having none at all."

"You know, if people eat nothing at all for many days together, they would be starved. A very small quantity, though it will not preserve a man's health and strength, may be sufficient to keep him alive.

"To amuse his people during this miserable voyage, Captain Bligh used to describe the situation of New Guinea and New Holland; and he gave them every information in his power respecting the course they ought to pursue. Besides engaging their attention, and passing the time agreeably, he had another motive in these conversations—he hoped, in case any accident should happen to himself, to enable these unhappy men to find their way to Timor, of which at present they know nothing but the name."

Harry inquired how Captain Bligh came to know so much more than the rest.

"A good knowledge of geography is so essential to a captain, that he would not be fit to command a ship unless he possessed it. Besides his general knowledge, I suppose Bligh could describe the situation and appearance of those coasts particularly, because he had been in these seas with Captain Cook.

"They were now for some days annoyed by wet and stormy weather, and obliged to work hard in baling out the water. On the 14th and 15th of May they passed to the north of that group of islands called the new Hebrides. These islands appeared to be fertile; and they observed smoke rising in several places, as if it issued from the dwellings of men. Our poor starving sailors looked at these pleasant islands with longing eyes, but weak and defenceless as they were, they durst not attempt to land there.

"The weather was generally cloudy, with frequent storms of thunder, lightning, and rain. They were constantly wet, and suffered extremely from cold during the night; but they considered this cloudy weather as a blessing, since it prevented them from suffering from thirst, as they otherwise must have done. Hot, dry weather would, most likely, have proved fatal to them.

On the 17th, some of the company begged for an increase of their allowance, but this the captain positively refused. As they suffered much from wet and cold, they stripped and wrung their clothes through the sea-water, which, (though they were obliged to put them on again while wet,) produced such a feeling of warmth and refreshment, that they frequently adopted the same expedient again.



STORY VII.

ADVENTURES OF CAPTAIN BLIGH.—PART II.

"On the 20th it rained violently. Some of the people seemed half dead, and the terrible effects of extreme hunger were plainly to be seen in their countenances. They each had two tea-spoonfuls of rum, with the usual allowance of bread and water. The next day they found themselves nearly in the same longitude with the eastern part of New Guinea."

"And a little way to the south of it, were they not?" said Lucy.

"They were a good way to the south of New Guinea, nearly in the latitude of Endeavour River. Bligh intended to pass through Endeavour Straits, which you may find between New Guinea and the north-eastern promontory of New Holland.

"On Friday, the 22nd of May, after a dark and dismal night, they were driven along by strong

gales of wind, and such a high sea, that they were forced to run right before it, managing the helm with the utmost care, as the least error would have caused their immediate destruction. The misery of the following night cannot easily be described. The sea flew over the boat with great force, and our unhappy voyagers were obliged to keep baling continually. When morning dawned, the anxiety and fatigue these poor men had suffered was manifest from their distressed appearance; and the captain feared that another such night would prove fatal to several of his people, who seemed no longer able to support their sufferings. He indulged each person with two tea-spoonfuls of rum; and after having wrung their clothes as before, and taken the usual allowance of bread and water, they felt a little refreshed."

"Poor fellows! I hope their strength will hold out a little longer. Timor does not look such a great way off; and when once they get between these islands, I think they will find a calmer sea."

"In the evening the weather became more moderate. A fine morning succeeded, and they enjoyed the reviving warmth of the sun. In the afternoon many birds surrounded the boat, which are never seen far from land, such as boobies and noddies."

"Boobies and noddies! how came those birds to have such ridiculous names."

"Sailors have called them by those names, because they are so silly as to suffer themselves to be caught on the masts and yards of ships. A booby is about as large as a duck, a noddy nearly the size of a pigeon.

"On this day Bligh examined the state of the bread, and found that there was enough remaining to serve them for twenty-nine days longer: in that time he hoped to reach Timor. But as this was uncertain, and it was possible that they might be obliged to go to Java, he resolved to proportion the allowance so as to make their provision hold out for six weeks. He was afraid that his poor half-starved companions would not like to diminish their allowance, already so very small; however, on his representing the necessity of guarding against the delays that might be occasioned by contrary winds, they cheerfully agreed to the proposal; and it was accordingly settled, that they should receive the usual allowance of bread for breakfast and dinner, and by going without the proportion hitherto eaten at supper, they found their stock would last them forty-three days.

"On the 25th, at noon, some noddies flew so

near the boat, that one of the party caught the foolish bird in his hand."

"What! caught it as it was flying along Then it was a noddy! If I was a bird, I know I would use my wings better than that. What did they do with it, mamma?"

"Though it was only the size of a small pigeon, Bligh divided it into eighteen portions, which were distributed with the usual allowance of bread and water at dinner-time, and eaten up, bones and all, with salt-water for sauce. In the evening they caught a booby in the same manner. This being a larger bird, they carefully saved the blood, which was given to three of the people who were most distressed for want of food. The bird was divided among them for supper, and they were indulged with a piece of bread to eat with it."

"Then they eat these birds quite raw, just as they killed them. Ah! poor creatures! I am sure they must have been very hungry."

"The weather was now serene; but this was not without inconvenience, though of a different kind: the heat of the sun was so powerful, that several of the people were seized with such a languor and faintness, that they did not care whether they lived or died.

"On the 27th they passed much drift-wood, and saw many birds. Bligh therefore concluded that they must be near the reefs of New Holland. In the evening they saw a gannet; and the clouds remained so fixed in the west, that he had little doubt of being near land. The company, after taking some water for their supper, amused themselves with guessing what they would be likely to find on the land to which they were approaching

"At one in the morning they heard the sound of breakers; and Bligh, starting up, saw them not more than a quarter of a mile distant. They immediately changed their course, and lost sight of them. At nine in the morning they saw the reef of rocks which lies along that part of the coast of New Holland. The waves broke furiously over every part of the reef; but within it they saw the sea so smooth, that they longed to get their boat into that calm, quiet water. They soon discovered a break in the reef, and entered the passage with a strong stream running to the westward."

"In what part of the coast of New Holland are they now?"

"They entered the reefs a little to the north of Endeavour River. When they found their boat

safely gliding along the smooth water, they returned thanks to God, for the gracious protection which had carried them through so many dangers; and then very contentedly took their morsel of bread, and quarter of a pint of water for dinner. At a little distance they saw an island, where the captain determined to land on a fine sandy point. How glad they must have been, after their limbs had for a whole month been cramped in a little boat, where they had not room to stretch themselves out, once more to walk and lie down at their ease! You will readily suppose that their first object was to find something to eat: they soon discovered that there were oysters on the rocks, for it was low water; but as the evening was closing in, only a few could be gathered. Bligh determined to stay there till the morning, and directed half the company to sleep on shore, and the others in the boat. In the morning they again divided themselves: some went in search of food, and others examined the state of the boat, and put it in order. They found that, during the last night, one of the fastenings of the rudder had come out and was lost. If this accident had happened at sea, it would probably have occasioned the loss of the boat; and they had fresh cause of

thankfulness for discovering it while they were in smooth water. Fortunately, they found a large staple in the boat, with which they made the rudder fast again.

"The foraging party returned, with plenty of oysters and fresh water. In the boat they happened to have a copper pot; so they lighted a fire, and with bread and water, oysters and a little pork, they made a comfortable stew, of which each person received a full pint."

"Poor creatures! how glad they must have been of such a dinner!"

"No doubt they were rejoiced at meeting with such refreshment. Indeed, though their health had suffered considerably from the hardships which they had endured, they still possessed so much strength, that the captain thought, if they continued to bear their difficulties with fortitude, they could support more fatigue, than was likely to attend the remainder of their voyage to Timor."

"Mamma, do you believe that if people suffer with fortitude, they can really bear *more* than if they are impatient or cowardly?"

"I have not the least doubt of it. If you have, my dear Lucy, I advise you the next time any painful or vexatious accident happens to you, to make the experiment for yourself."

"Having rested and refreshed themselves here till the 30th, Bligh determined to proceed. They therefore filled all their vessels with water, and gathered a quantity of oysters. On examining the bread, they found enough remaining for thirty-eight days, at the rate of their present allowance.

"Before they again encountered the dangers of the sea, they all united in prayer: and when they were preparing to embark, they saw about twenty people on the opposite shore, who were running and hallooing to them. On the tops of the hills they saw the heads of many more; and finding their arrival on the coast was discovered, they thought it prudent to make the best of their way for fear of being pursued by canoes. They passed as near to the natives as they could with safety. They were naked, and appeared to have black complexions, and short, bushy hair.

"They continued their voyage, and saw many small islands, which they left on the right, passing towards the north, along the channel between the islands and New Holland. They sometimes saw parties of the natives, but had no intercourse with them: they landed occasionally, where it appeared safe to do so, and gathered oysters and clams, with

a small kind of beans, which served to thicken their stews. For these beans they were indebted to David Nelson, a botanist, who had been sent out in the Bounty, to procure the bread-fruit plants and take proper care of them. He informed Bligh that these beans might be eaten safely."

"Why, did not the captain know that, without being told?" said Harry.

I imagine he understood the management of a boat far better than the nature of plants; but, you see, every kind of knowledge is useful, and those who possess the most, especially that which just happens to be wanted, will always obtain an influence over their companions."

"Ah! I remember. You said so about Ali Bey. Yes, you said then, that 'knowledge is power.' Now I should like to be powerful: so I will try to gain knowledge."

"I am glad," said Lucy, "that my favourite botany is so useful. If no one in the company had understood the nature of plants, perhaps some of them would have been poisoned."

"When they landed the first time, Bligh cautioned his people not to eat any berry or fruit they might find; but at first they were regardless of the prohibition. Some of them were ill in con-



AMONG THE ISLANDS.

sequence; and they became more prudent, applying to Nelson, when they found any fruit, to know if it might be eaten with safety.

"They caught some noddies, which they half-dressed, that they might keep the better, and added them to their sea-stock."

"Harry said, he hoped they did not suffer much more from hunger.

"They still suffered the bad consequences which want of food had produced upon their health; but the oysters and birds proved a most welcome addition to their allowance. On the 3rd of June, at eight o'clock in the evening, they bade adieu to the reefs of New Holland, and once more launched into the open ocean. The captain encouraged them with hopes that, in eight or ten days, they might reach a land of safety. He was surprised to see how much the rest and refreshment which they had just enjoyed had recruited their spirits. It is true, they were still deplorable objects; but the hope of speedy relief sustained and cheered them.

"On the 7th they had to contend with a high sea, and frequent rain: so that their sufferings from wet and cold were renewed. Mr. Ledward, the surgeon, and Lawrence Lebouge, an old, hardy

sailor, appeared to be sinking very fast. All that could be done was to give them a tea-spoonful or two of wine, which had been carefully reserved, in case of such melancholy necessity.

" On the 8th they caught a small dolphin; each person had about two ounces, and the remainder was saved for the next day's dinner."

" On the 10th, in the morning, after a very comfortless night, there was a sensible change for the worse in the appearance of the people. Extreme weakness, swelled legs, hollow and ghastly countenances, with more than common inclination to sleep, and a weakness of understanding, appeared to Bligh as the symptoms of approaching death. The surgeon and Lebouge, in particular, were most miserable objects. The captain gave them some more wine, which greatly assisted them; but the hope of soon accomplishing the voyage was their principal support.

" At noon on Thursday, the 11th of June, they took an observation. The captain had now little doubt that he had passed the meridian of the eastern part of Timor. This opinion diffused general satisfaction. In the afternoon they looked out anxiously for land, but in vain. At last, about three in the morning of the 12th, they discovered

the island of Timor, sloping towards the W. N. W.; and at day-light found themselves only two leagues from the shore."

"Oh! how very glad they must have been!"

"They were indeed quite overjoyed; and they could scarcely believe, that in an open boat, so poorly provided, they should have been able to reach the coast of Timor, in forty-one days after leaving Tofoa, having in that time sailed a distance of 3,618 miles; and that, notwithstanding the extreme distress they had suffered, no one should have died on the voyage.

"Captain Bligh did not know in what part of Timor the Dutch settlement was situated; he therefore bore away along the shore, keeping a look-out.

"The prospect was beautiful: woods and lawns with distant mountains, appeared above the shore, which was low. Towards noon the coast became higher, and they passed many cultivated spots, but could see no habitation except a few small huts.

"That they might not run past any settlement in the night, they resolved to lay-to in shoal-water; and all, but the officer on watch, endeavoured to get a little sleep. In the morning,

no settlement being in sight, they bore away to the westward. After some time they came to a bay, or sound, of considerable extent, with an entrance about two or three miles wide. As no place could appear more likely to be chosen for a European settlement, Bligh determined to explore it, and anchored in a small sandy bay, where he saw a hut, a dog, and some cattle. He immediately sent the boatswain and gunner to the hut to discover the inhabitants. They soon returned, bringing five Indians with them, and informed the captain they had found two families, and that the women had treated them with European politeness. From these people they learned that the governor resided at Coupang, which was at some distance towards the N. E. Bligh asked one of the men to show him the way, offering to pay him for his trouble: he readily complied, and came into the boat. By the direction of the pilot they kept close to the eastern shore, but as night came on, the wind died away; and finding they advanced but slowly, they again dropped their grapnel, and for the first time indulged themselves with a double allowance of bread, and a little wine.

"After a few hours of sweet and refreshing sleep, they again continued their voyage. The report of

two cannon, which were fired at some distance, gave fresh spirits to every one; and soon after they discovered a cutter, and two square-rigged vessels, at anchor to the eastward. Near day-light they once more dropped the grapnel, off a small fort and town, which the pilot said was Coupang.

"Among the things which the boatswain had thrown into the boat before they left the ship, was a bundle of signal-flags. By means of these flags they hoisted a signal of distress, the captain not thinking it proper to land without leave.

"Soon after day-break, a soldier hailed them to land, with which the captain immediately complied. Amongst a crowd of Indians, he was agreeably surprised to meet with an English sailor who belonged to one of the vessels in the road. He said that his captain was the second person in the town; and, at Bligh's request, he conducted him to Captain Spikerman, for that was his name.

"That gentleman received Captain Bligh with great humanity; and, though his influence was not quite so great as the sailor had represented, he proved a very useful friend to our unfortunate countrymen. When he heard of the distressed state of the company in the boat, he gave direc-

tions for them to be brought to his house immediately; and went himself to the governor, to know when Captain Bligh could be permitted to see him.

"In the meantime Bligh went back to his boat, and desired the men to come on shore. Some of them were scarcely able to walk; but they were helped along to Spikerman's house, where they found tea and bread and butter provided for their breakfast."

"I am glad we are come to the pleasant part of the story, mamma; and that the sufferings of these poor men are over."

"Not quite over, yet, my dear Lucy. They were received with the greatest hospitality and kindness at Coupang; but the effects of what they had suffered still remained, and when they stepped out of the boat, the people of Timor beheld them with mixed feelings of horror, surprise, and pity."

"Poor creatures! did they look so *very* shocking?"

"Indeed they did. Their bodies appeared to be reduced to skin and bone: their limbs were full of sores; and they were covered with rags, for their clothes were torn to pieces by frequent wringing through salt-water. In this condition,

with tears of joy and gratitude flowing down their cheeks, they presented a most affecting spectacle.

"The governor, Mr. William Adrian Van Este, was at that time extremely ill; but he was a humane, good man, and his own sufferings did not engage his thoughts so entirely as to prevent his wishing to relieve those of others. He received Captain Bligh with affectionate kindness, and expressed great pleasure at having it in his power to order everything necessary for these distressed strangers. He directed a house to be prepared for Bligh, and told him that his men might be received either at the hospital, or on board Captain Spikerman's ship. But after suffering as they had done together, Bligh did not wish to be separated from his people; and he determined that they should share the accommodations provided for himself. When the governor was informed of this, he sent chairs, tables, bedding, and other necessaries, sufficient for them all, to the captain's house."

"I like Captain Bligh for that! If he had gone into a nice, pleasant house himself, and sent all those poor men to an hospital, I should have been very angry with him."

"I should have been sorry, too, Harry, if he had

done so; for it would have shown a selfish, unfeeling temper.

"The great attention which our countrymen received at Coupang, soon produced amendment in their health. Bligh requested the governor to allow Nelson to walk about the country, in search of plants; a permission which was readily granted. But the poor botanist, who had been in a weak state ever since they left the coast of New Holland, was about this time seized with a fever, of which he died on the 20th of July. Bligh greatly lamented the loss of Nelson, both on account of the attention he had paid to the object for which he was sent to Otaheite, and the patience and fortitude with which he bore the hardships of the voyage from Tofoa."

"I, too, am sorry for poor Nelson," said Lucy: "it seems such a pity for him to die when their sufferings were all over. Did Captain Bligh and his people stay long at Coupang?"

"He remained there till the 20th of August, when, having purchased and armed a small vessel, and laid in such stores as he judged necessary, he set sail for Batavia, where he arrived on the first of October."

"Why did he arm the vessel? was he going to fight?"

"Not if he could help it; but in those seas it was very likely he might be forced to do so, particularly as he was in a very small vessel."

"Ah, I understand! He was afraid of those terrible Malays."

"I suppose he thought it necessary to be provided with means of defence, in case they should attempt to board his vessel.

"Captain Bligh was very ill while he was at Batavia, which prevented him from seeing much of the place. Some of his people died there: the hardships they had endured having greatly injured their health, they were unable to support that unwholesome climate. The remainder embarked on board the Dutch fleet for Europe; and of the nineteen persons forced by the mutineers into the launch, twelve surmounted all the dangers of the voyage, and lived to revisit their native country."



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